

The Ancient Magus' Bride

2

Story & Art by
KORE YAMAZAKI

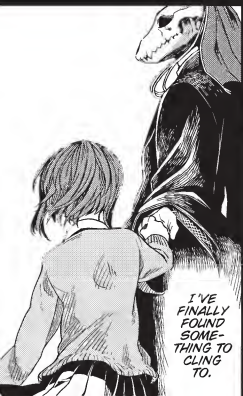
The Ancient Magus' Bride







I WAS AN
UNWANTED
CHILD.



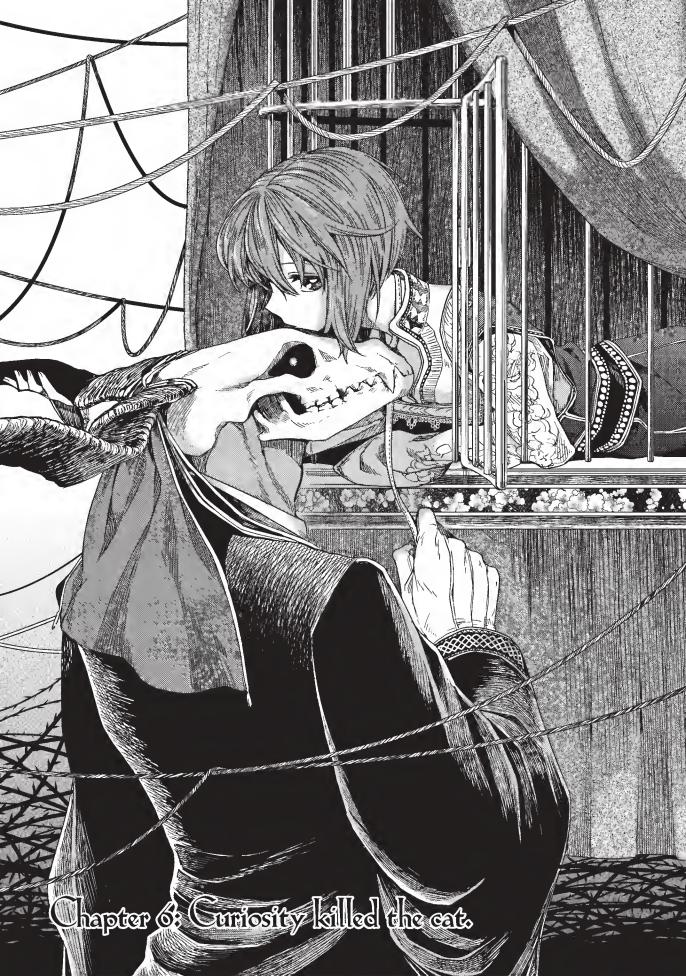
I'VE
FINALLY
FOUND
SOME-
THING TO
CLING
TO.



I WAS
ALWAYS
BEING
HANDED
OFF AND
KICKED
OUT.



BUT
NOW...



Chapter 6: Curiosity killed the cat.



ISN'T SHE,
PILUM
MURALE?

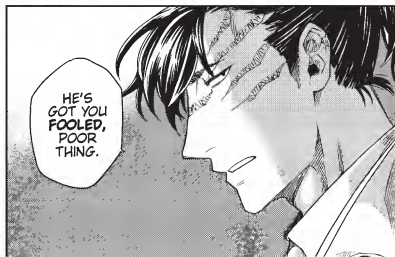


SHE'S A
VALUABLE
LITTLE
GUINEA PIG
TO YOU.



THE
STORY IS
THAT HE'S
TAKEN YOU
ON AS HIS
APPREN-
TICE.

RIGHT,
RIGHT.

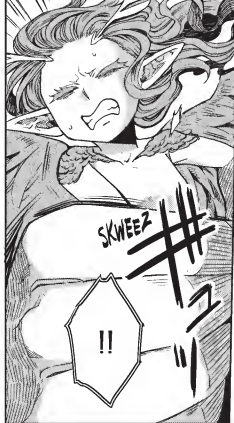


HE'S
GOT YOU
FOOLED,
POOR
THING.



"PILUM"?
HUH?

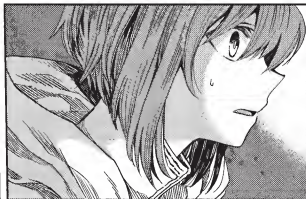
GUINEA
PIG...?



YOU JUST
FAILED TO
MENTION
THAT SHE'S
GOING TO
DIE SOON...

OF
COURSE
YOU
HAVEN'T
LIED
TO THE
GIRL.

AND THAT
YOU BOUGHT
AND COLLARED
HER SO YOU
COULD SATE
YOUR
CURIOSITY.



MY
KIND HAS
LITTLE
USE FOR
LIES.

I HAVE
NOT LIED,
NOR AM I
ATTEMPT-
ING TO
FOOL
ANYONE.



YOU OFFER
HONEYED
PROMISES
AND HALF-
TRUTHS
INSTEAD.

RIGHT,
MY BAD.
YOU JUST
OMIT THE
TRUTH.



BUT HE'S
NOT LIFTING
A FINGER TO
HELP YOU
OUT. YOU'RE
JUST A
SPECIMEN
TO HIM.

SEE, KID?
YOU'RE
IN A PRE-
CARIOUS
SITUA-
TION...

SHE...

SHE
LAUGHED
...?



TRUST
ME, CHISE.
HIS KIND
DON'T HAVE
HEARTS.

AND
TRYING
TO USE
MAGIC
BURNS
THROUGH
YOUR
LIFE EVEN
FASTER.

LOTS OF
SLEIGH
BEGGY DIE
YOUNG WITH-
OUT EVER
KNOWING
WHAT
THEY ARE.

I BET
YOU'VE
HAD SOME
SYMPTOMS
ALREADY.

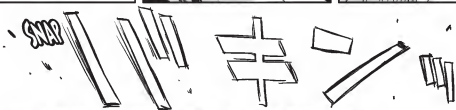
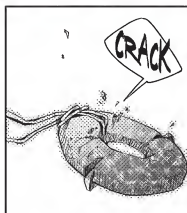
MY DIZZY
SPELLS...

STUFF
LIKE
SLEEPING
FOR DAYS
ON END.

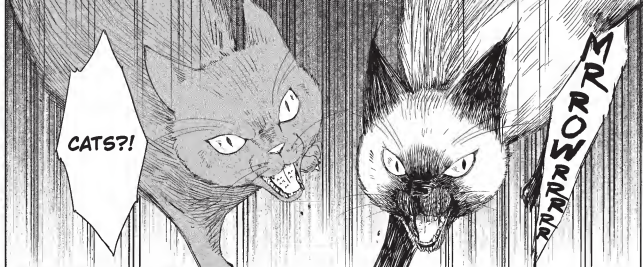


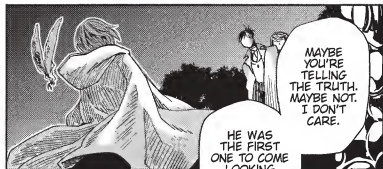
FROM
SOME
MONSTER
MASQUER-
ADING AS
HUMAN.

DON'T
LOOK FOR
LOVE OR
COMPAS-
SION...









MAYBE
YOU'RE
TELLING
THE TRUTH.
MAYBE NOT.
I DON'T
CARE.

HE WAS
THE FIRST
ONE TO COME
LOOKING
FOR ME AND
BUY ME.



SO,
UNTIL HE
CHOOSSES
TO LET
ME GO...

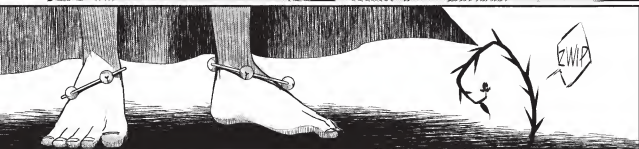


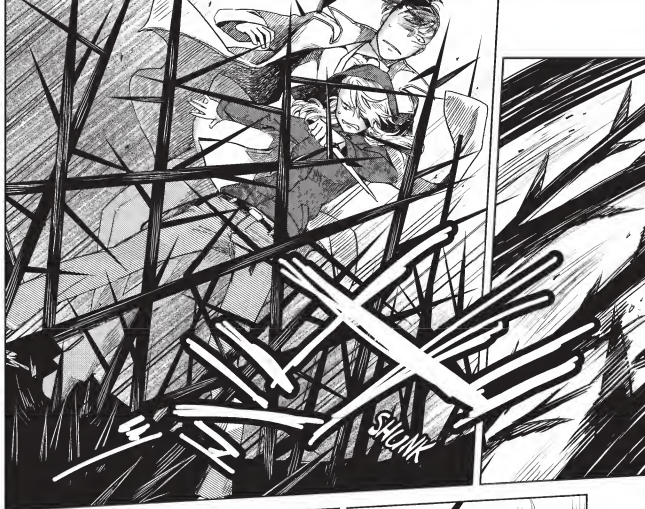
EVEN IF
HE WAS
LYING...

HE'S
THE FIRST
PERSON
WHO'S EVER
CALLED ME
FAMILY.



I
BELONG
TO
HIM.







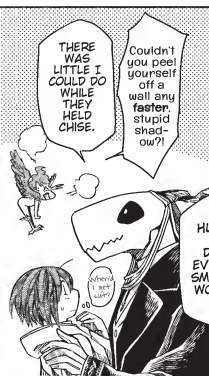
RASH GIRL.
HERE,
SHOW
ME
THAT
CUT.

YES.

ARE
YOU
WELL,
CHISE?



I AM
PILUM
MURALE,
"THE
SPEAR
WALL."



THERE
WAS
LITTLE I
COULD DO
WHILE
THEY
HELD
CHISE.

Couldn't
you peel
yourself
off a
wall any
faster,
stupid
shad-
ow?!

When'd I get cut?

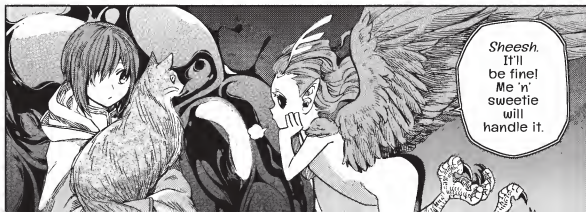
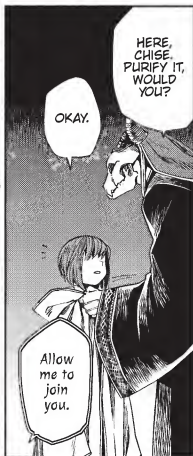
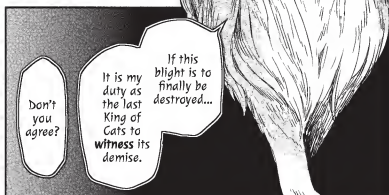
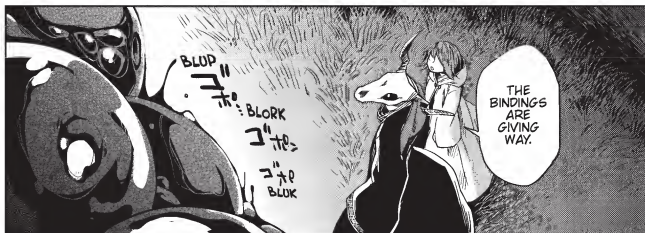
HUMANS
CAN
DIE OF
EVEN THE
SMALLEST
WOUNDS.

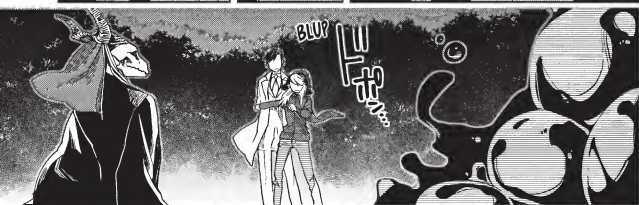


CUT?

OW!

CLICK







YOU THINK
FOLKS'LL
LET THAT
SLIDE?
THIS BLOB
AIN'T THE
ONLY
BLIGHT
HERE.

HMPH!
YOU CAN'T
BECOME
HUMAN OR
GO BACK TO
BEING FAE,
AND YOU
BOUGHT A
HUMAN?



BUT TELL
ME, HOW
DID YOU
LEARN OF
CHISE?

I SEE YOU
REMAIN
A HUMAN
SUPREMACIST,
RENFRED.

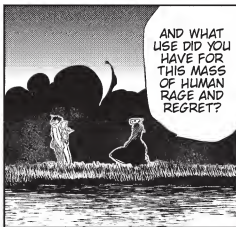


I SEE.



IT'S A BLACK
MARKET--
WHAT HAPPENS
WITHIN ITS
WALLS IS NOT
SPOKEN OF
ELSEWHERE.

YOU
DESPISE
THAT
AUCTION
HOUSE,
DON'T
YOU?



AND WHAT
USE DID YOU
HAVE FOR
THIS MASS
OF HUMAN
RAGE AND
REGRET?



YOUR
LEFT
ARM...

IS
GONE.



WHO
TOOK IT
FROM
YOU?



NNH...

Chise!

...se.



WHERE
ARE
WE?



Chise,
sweet!
You're
awake!



It looks
like a
human
tavern
of old.



REST-
ING AT
HOME.

HOW'S
THE
WIFE?

G'DAY,
MAT-
THEW!

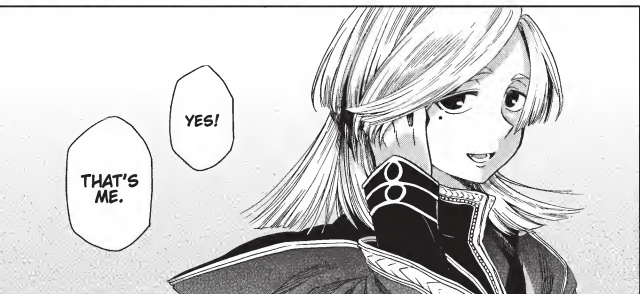
Mm-hmm.
I figure
we're in
the blight's
memory.

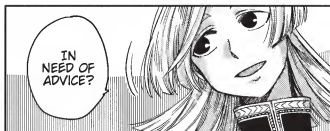


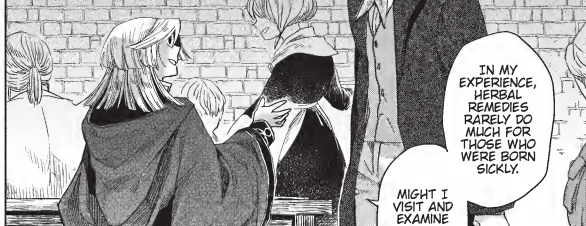
HUH?
I'M SEE-
THROUGH!



!

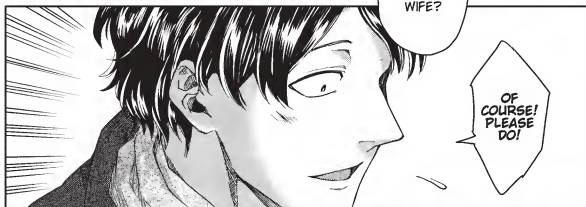






IN MY
EXPERIENCE,
HERBAL
REMEDIES
RARELY DO
MUCH FOR
THOSE WHO
WERE BORN
SICKLY.

MIGHT I
VISIT AND
EXAMINE
YOUR LADY
WIFE?



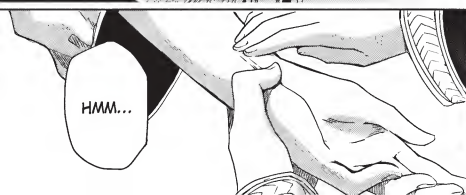
OF
COURSE!
PLEASE
DO!



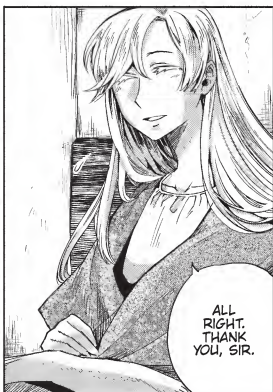
WEIRD.

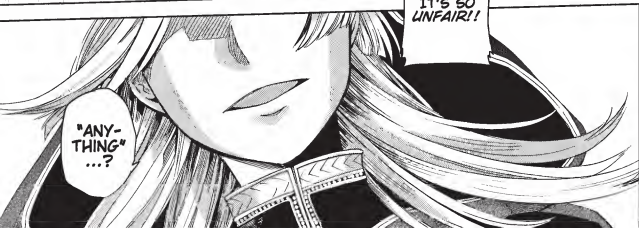
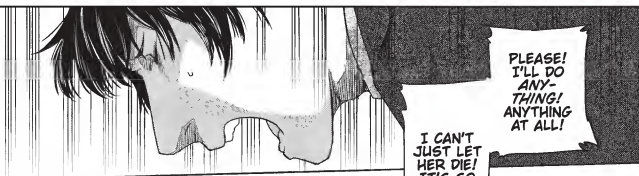


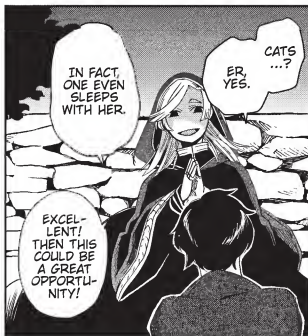
SOMETHING
ABOUT
THAT GUY
SEEMS...
CREEPY.

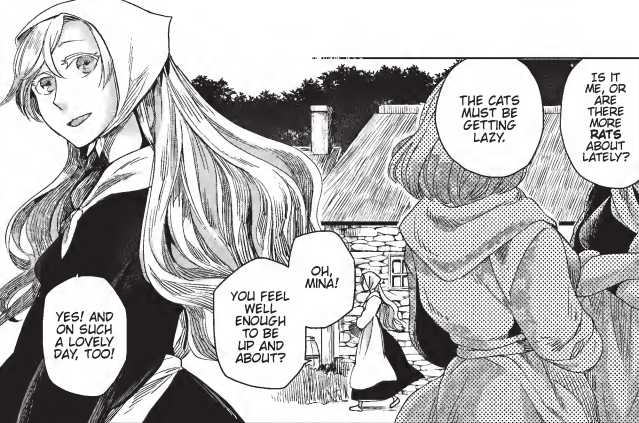


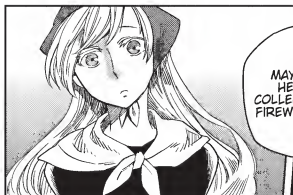
HMM...



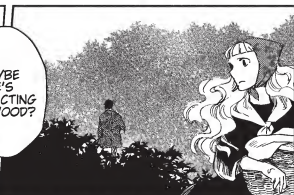








MAYBE
HE'S
COLLECTING
FIREWOOD?



HOW
FAR
HAS HE
GONE?

I-I
HAVE A
REALLY
BAD
FEELING.



Chise?

You
hanging
in there?
You're
pale as
milk.



MAT-
THEW?

MAT-
THEW!



A HUT?

I DIDN'T KNOW
THERE WAS ONE
WAY OUT
HERE.



OH!



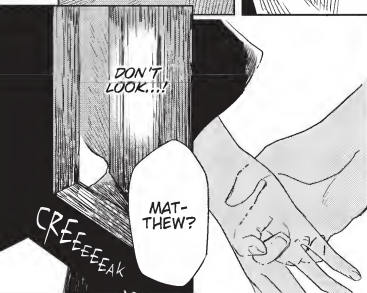
NO...!



WHAT ON
EARTH
IS HE
DOING?



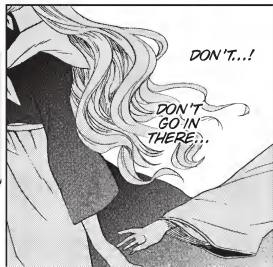
THIS
IS OUR
AXE...!



DON'T
LOOK...!

MAT-
THEW?

CREEEEAK



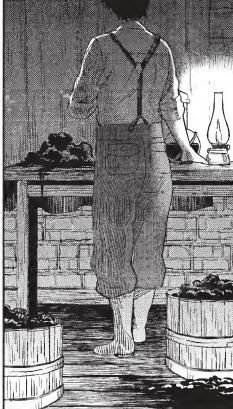
DON'T...!

DON'T
GO IN
THERE...



WH-
WHAT
...?

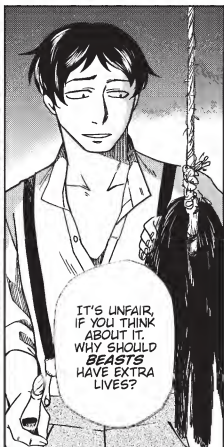
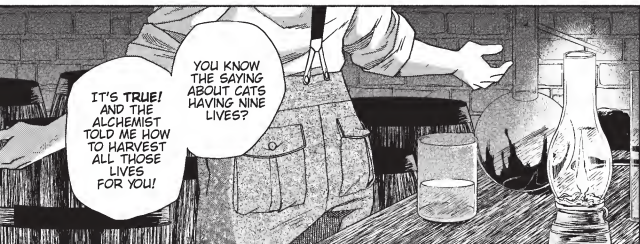


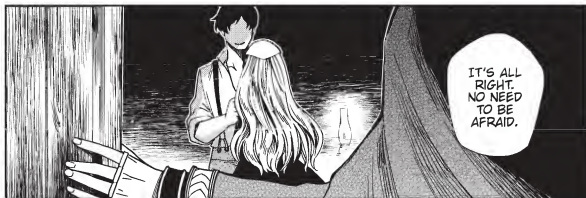
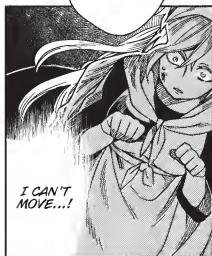
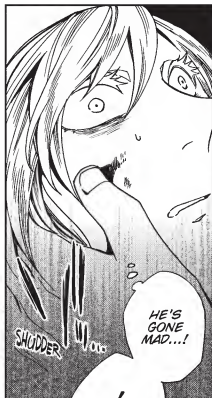


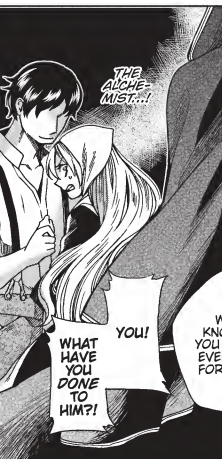


Chapter 7: Love conquers all.









THE
ALCHE-
MIST...!

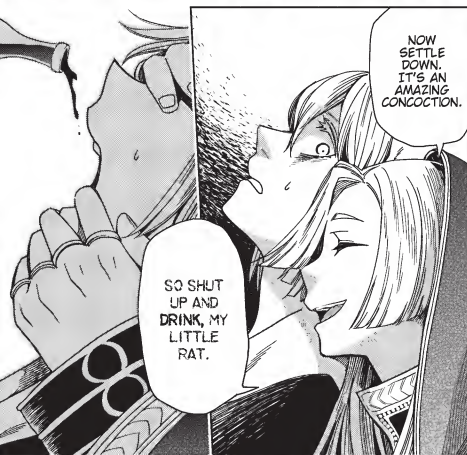
YOU!

WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE
TO
HIM?!



JUST DRINK
THAT POTION,
AND YOU'LL
NEVER BE
WEAK AND
FRAIL AGAIN.

WHO
KNOWS?
YOU MIGHT
EVEN LIVE
FOREVER!



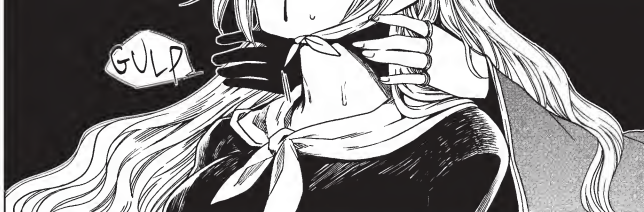
NOW
SETTLE
DOWN.
IT'S AN
AMAZING
CONCOCTION.

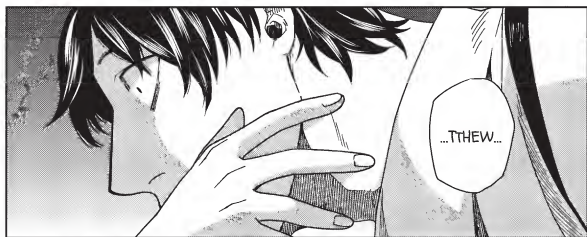
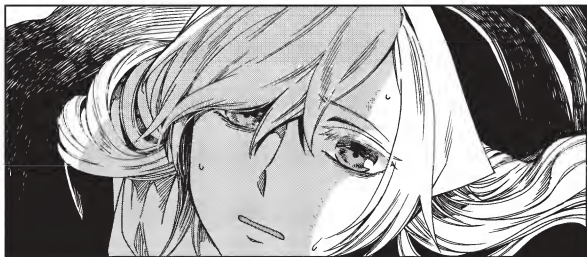
SO SHUT
UP AND
DRINK, MY
LITTLE
RAT.



ME?

PERSUADED
HIM TO
TRUST ME,
THAT'S
ALL.









OH,
DRAT!

IT
COULDN'T
HOLD
ITSELF
TOGETH-
ER.



THEY'RE MORE
MALLEABLE
THAN HUMANS,
BUT THEIR
STRONGER
INSTINCTS MAKE
THE BACKLASH
STRONGER.

SO
BEASTS
REALLY
ARE JUST
BEASTS...

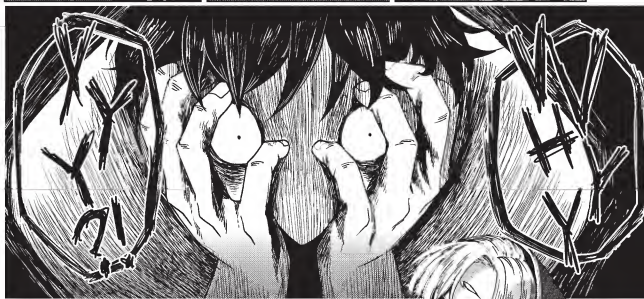


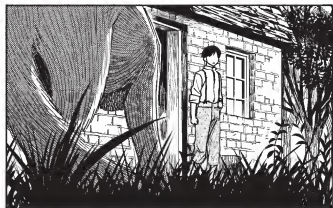
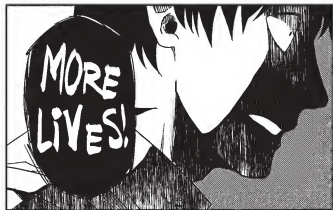
HUH...?

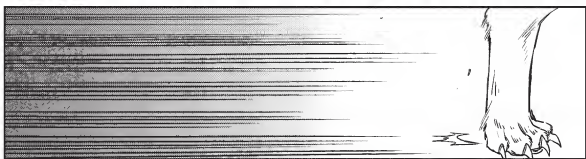


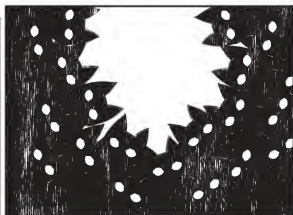
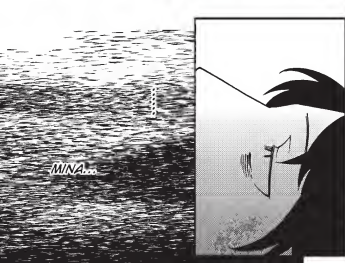
OH, WELL.
THANKS
FOR YOUR
HELP! I
LEARNED
A LOT, AT
LEAST.

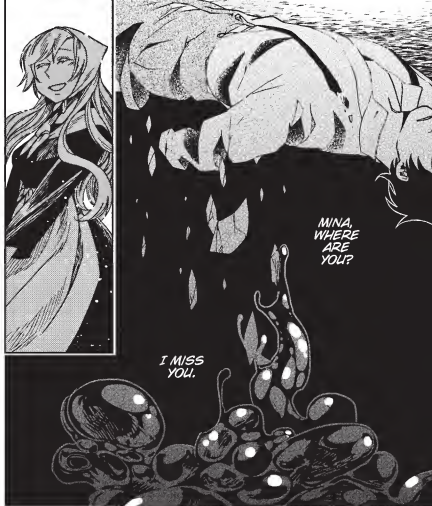
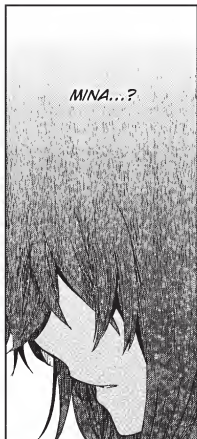
I'LL
HAVE TO
REASSESS
EVERYTHING
PAST THE
SOUL-
CONCEN-
TRATION
STEP.

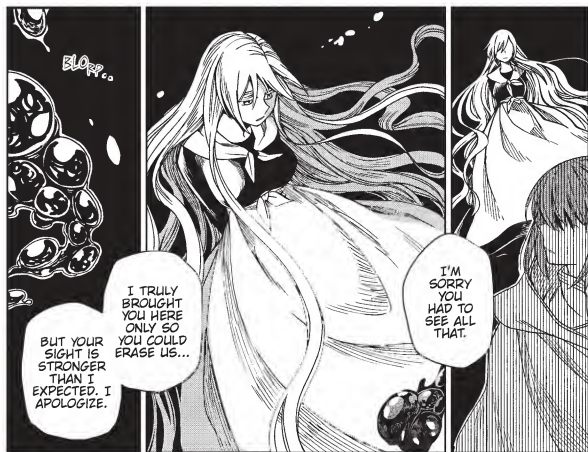














WIPE US
OUT OF
EXISTENCE.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"ERASE"
YOU?



BUT
WE'VE BEEN
TRAPPED
HERE SO
LONG, NONE
OF US
REMEMBER
THE WAY.



THEY
DIED AT
MATTHEW'S
HAND,
CURSING
HIS NAME,
AND WERE
DRAWN INTO
THE BLIGHT.

YES.
THEY'RE
ALL
BOUND
UP IN
THIS, TOO.



NOT
EVEN
THE
CATS.

THE
CATS?

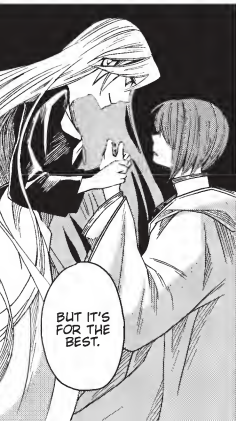


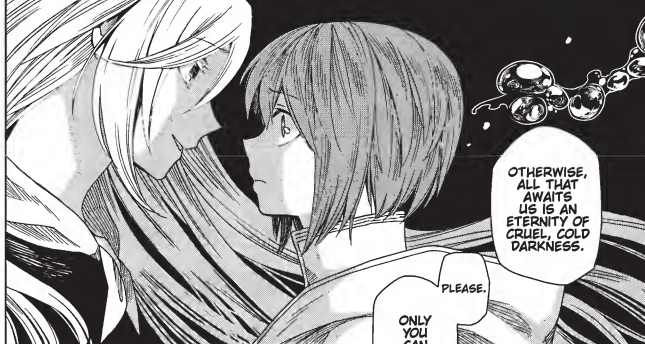
LIVING
SOULS
FLOW
THROUGH
A CYCLE.

THEY
ENTER THE
WORLD AS
VARIOUS
CREA-
TURES...

THEN
RETURN
TO A
PLACE
NO LIVING
BEING
HAS GONE.

ALL
SOULS
INSTINCTIVELY
KNOW
HOW TO
FIND IT...

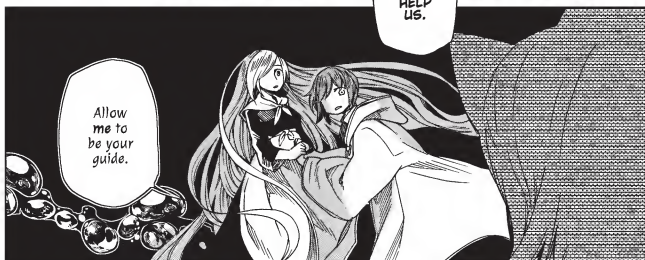




OTHERWISE,
ALL THAT
AWAITS
US IS AN
ETERNITY OF
CRUEL, COLD
DARKNESS.

PLEASE.

ONLY
YOU
CAN
HELP
US.



Allow
me to
be your
guide.

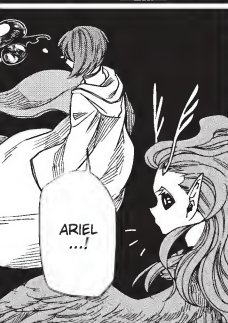
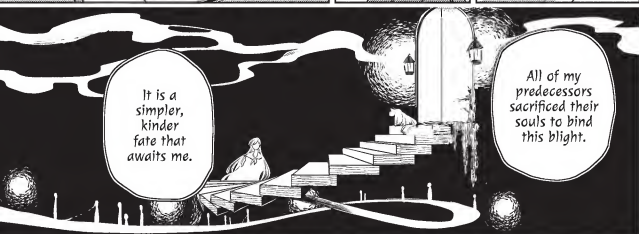


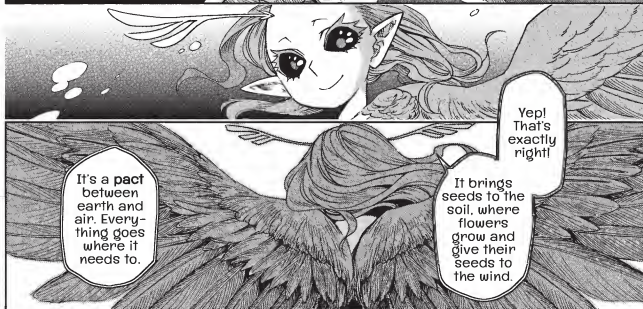
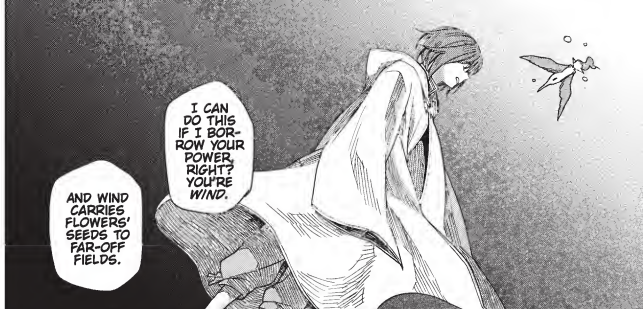
Who
better
to lead
you?

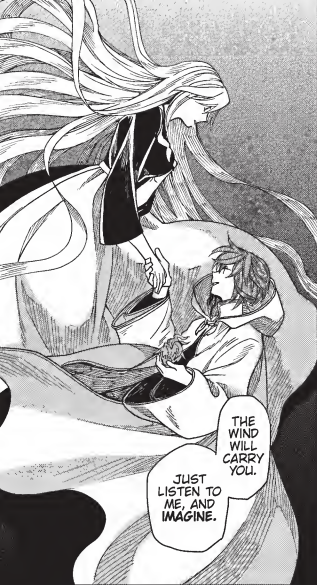
I am on
my ninth
life. My soul
will soon
take that
road.



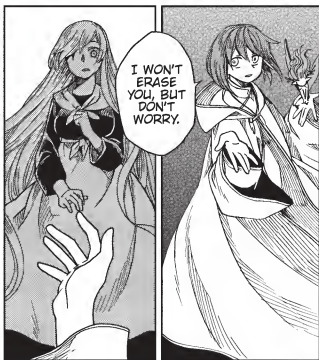
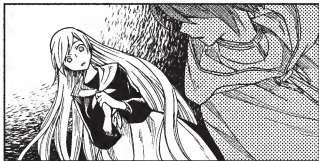
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY!







JUST
LISTEN TO
ME, AND
IMAGINE.
THE
WIND WILL
CARRY
YOU.



I WON'T
ERASE
YOU, BUT
DON'T
WORRY.

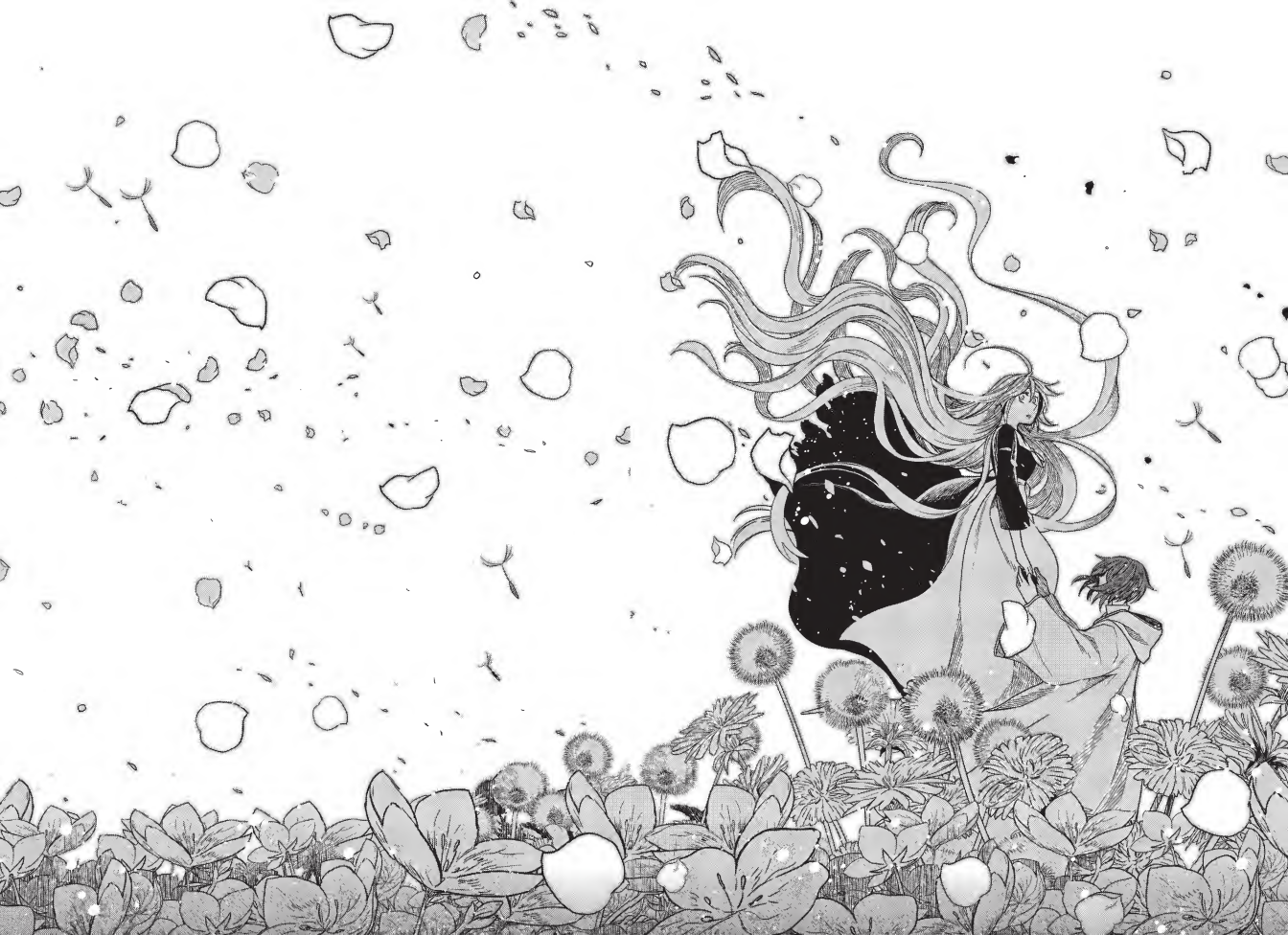


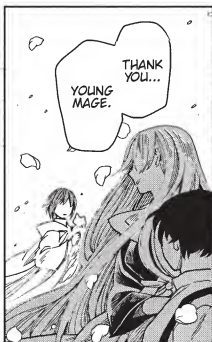
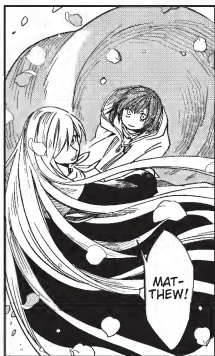
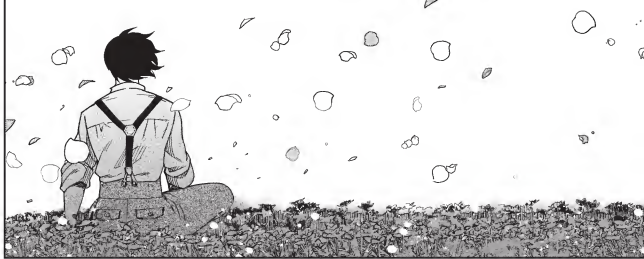
A WHITE.
FLUFFY
SEED
DRIFTING
ON THE
WIND...

IMAGINE
YOU'RE A
DANDELION
SEED...

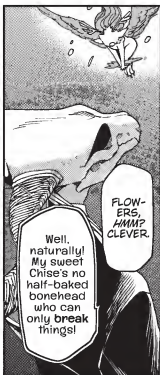


THE
WIND LIFTS
YOU UP AND
TAKES YOU
TO WHERE
YOU'RE
MEANT TO
GROW AND
BLOOM.









Well, naturally! My sweet Chise's no half-baked bonehead who can only break things!





THERE'S
NO
SHORTAGE
OF FOLK
WHO'RE
INTER-
ESTED
IN HER.

BE
CARE-
FUL.

HE
LOOKS...
RELIEVED?



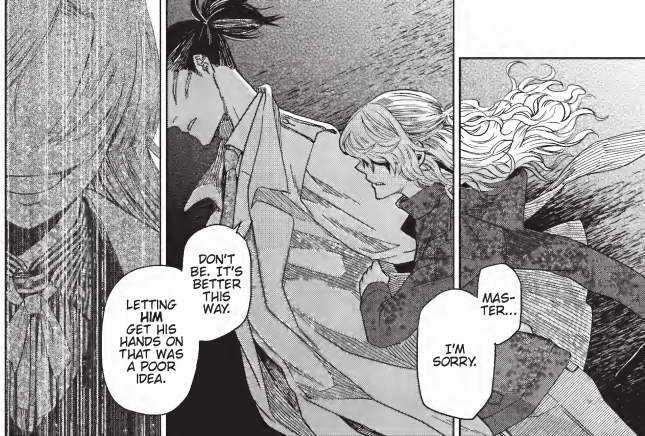
YOU
REALIZE I
HAVEN'T
TOLD YOU
ANYTHING
YET?

LEAVING
SO
SOON?



AND
WE GOT
TO SEE
HOW YOU
TREAT
THE GIRL.

WITH
THE
BLIGHT
GONE,
WE'VE NO
BUSINESS
HERE.

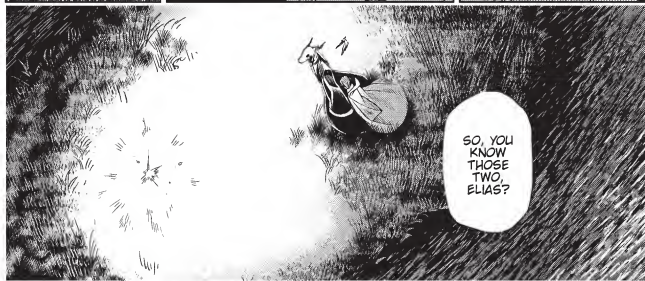


LETTING HIM
GET HIS
HANDS ON
THAT WAS
A POOR
IDEA.

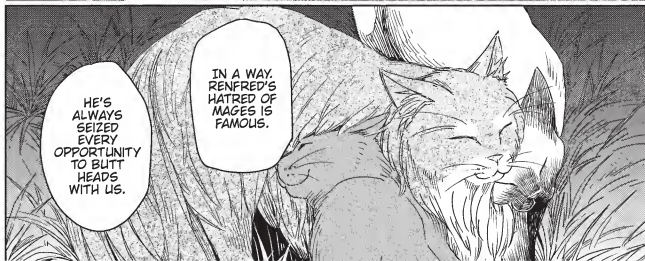
DON'T
BE. IT'S
BETTER
THIS
WAY.

MASTER...

I'M
SORRY.



SO, YOU
KNOW
THOSE
TWO,
ELIAS?



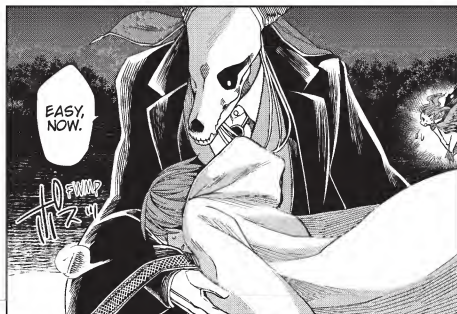
HE'S
ALWAYS
SEIZED
EVERY
OPPORTUNITY
TO BUTT
HEADS
WITH US.

IN A WAY,
RENFRED'S
HATRED OF
MAGES IS
FAMOUS.



I
DARE SAY
THERE'S
A STORY
THERE.

LAST I
SAW HIM,
HE STILL
HAD BOTH
ARMS.



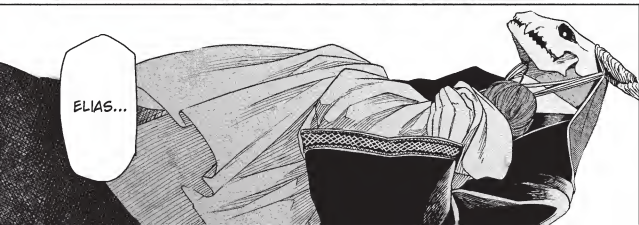
EASY,
NOW.



STAGGER?



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
YOU CAN
SLEEP IF YOU
WISH. YOU
MUST BE
EXHAUSTED
AFTER USING
SO MUCH
POWER.



ELIAS...

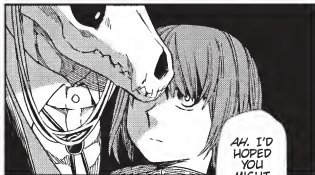


WHEN
AM I
GOING
TO DIE?

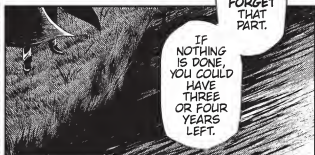


BUT
I HAVE A
PLAN.
DON'T YOU
WORRY.

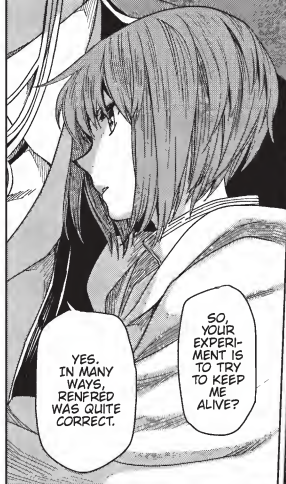
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
TELL ME
BEFORE?



AH. I'D
HOPED
YOU
MIGHT
FORGET
THAT
PART.



IF
NOTHING
IS DONE,
YOU COULD
HAVE
THREE
OR FOUR
YEARS
LEFT.



YES.
IN MANY
WAYS,
RENFRED
WAS QUITE
CORRECT.

SO,
YOUR
EXPERI-
MENT IS
TO TRY
TO KEEP
ME
ALIVE?



I WILL
NOT
PERMIT
IT TO
HAPPEN.

THERE
WAS NO
NEED.



THAT'S
WHY A
LIVING ONE,
LIKE YOU,
COMMANDS
SUCH A
PRICE.

BUT THE
SLEIGH
BEGGY
WOULD
SOON
DIE.

AN
ALCHEMIST
WHO
ACQUIRES
ONE COULD
EXPERIMENT
TO THEIR
HEART'S
CONTENT.

SLEIGH
BEGGY ARE
NEARLY
BOTTOM-
LESS WELLS
OF MAGICAL
ENERGY.

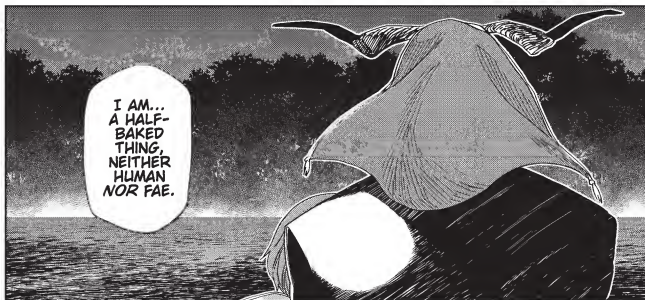


WHY
WOULD
YOU WANT
ME...?

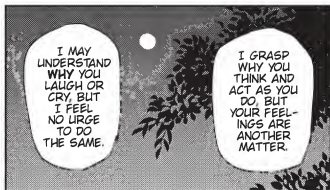
YOU
DON'T
NEED
ANY
MAGIC,
ELIAS.



BUT...

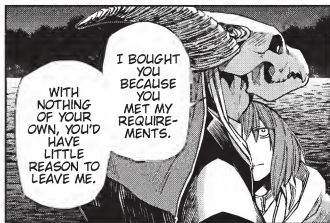


I AM...
A HALF-
BAKED
THING,
NEITHER
HUMAN
NOR FAE.



I MAY
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU
LAUGH OR
CRY, BUT
I FEEL
NO URGE
TO DO
THE SAME.

I GRASP
WHY YOU
THINK AND
ACT AS YOU
DO, BUT
YOUR FEEL-
INGS ARE
ANOTHER
MATTER.



WITH
NOTHING
OF YOUR
OWN, YOU'D
HAVE
LITTLE
REASON TO
LEAVE ME.

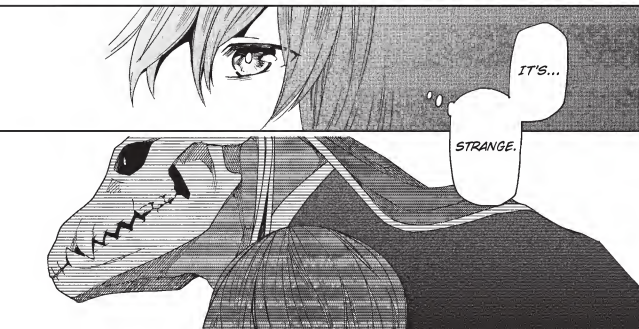
I BOUGHT
YOU
BECAUSE
YOU
MET MY
REQUIRE-
MENTS.

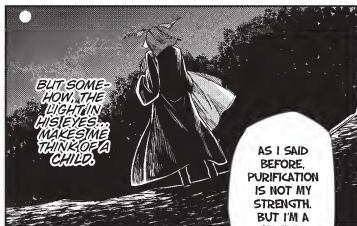


I HAVE
LIVED A
LONG,
LONG
TIME,
AND...

I'VE MET
MORE THAN
A FEW
HUMANS
IN THOSE
YEARS.

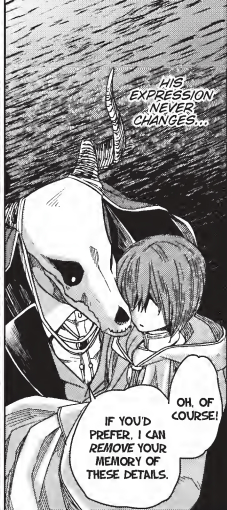
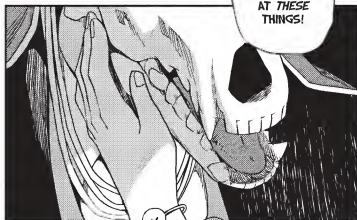
YET
I STILL
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOU
WELL.





BUT SOME-
HOW, THE
LIGHT IN
HIS EYES...
MAKES ME
THINK OF A
CHILD.

AS I SAID
BEFORE,
PURIFICATION
IS NOT MY
STRENGTH.
BUT I'M A
MASTER
AT THESE
THINGS!



HIS
EXPRESSION
NEVER
CHANGES...

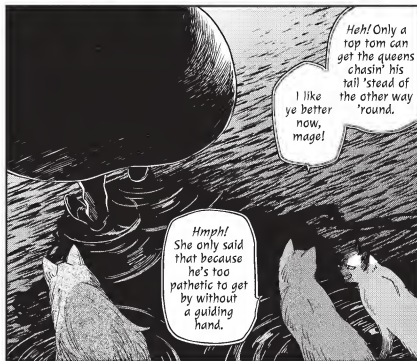
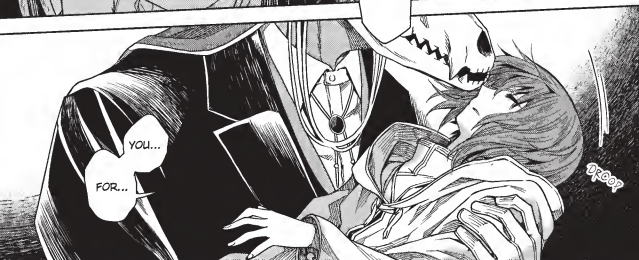
OH, OF
COURSE!

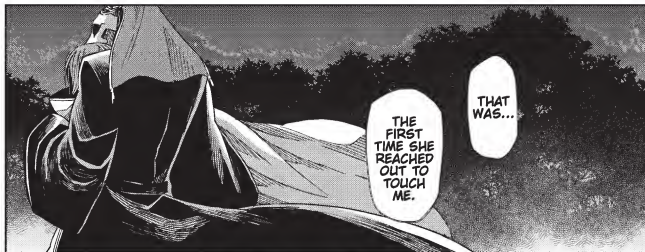
IF YOU'D
PREFER, I CAN
REMOVE YOUR
MEMORY OF
THESE DETAILS.



IT'S
OKAY.

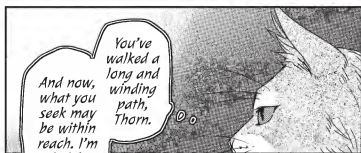
YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
BE
SCARED.





THE
FIRST
TIME SHE
REACHED
OUT TO
TOUCH
ME.

THAT
WAS...



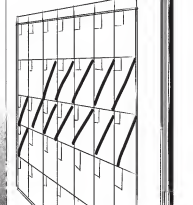
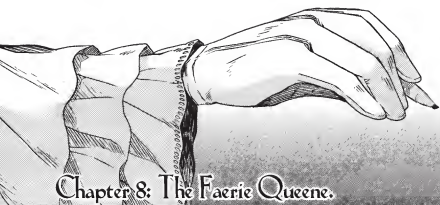
And now,
what you
seek may
be within
reach. I'm
glad for
you.

You've
walked a
long and
winding
path,
Thorn.

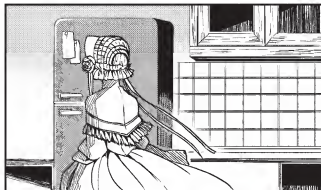


COME,
CHISE.

LET'S
GO
HOME.

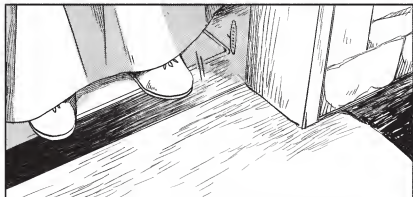
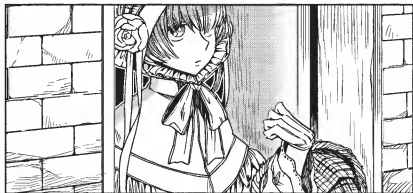


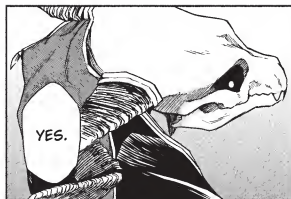
Chapter 8: The Faerie Queene.



KUZZA





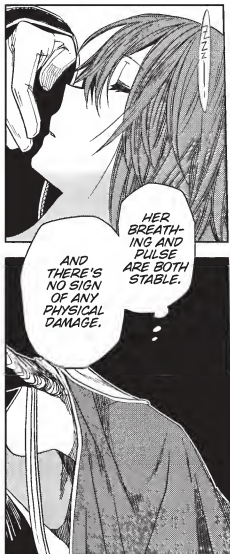


I ALSO
HOPE SHE
AWAKENS
TODAY.





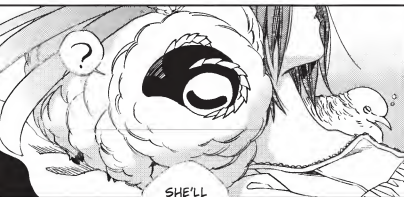
Chapter 8: The Faerie Queene.





LET ME
WORRY
FOR THE
LASS,
WON'T
YOU?

SHE'S
SLEPT
LIKE THAT
SINCE YOU
RETURNED
FROM
ULTHAR A
FORTNIGHT
AGO.



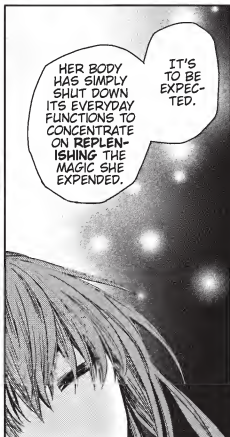
SHE'LL
RECOVER
FASTER
SUR-
ROUNDED
BY
NATURE.

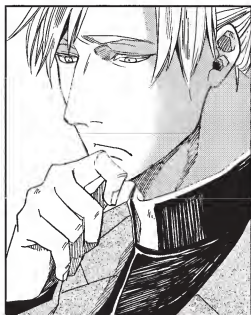
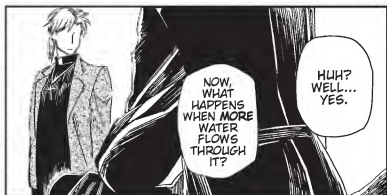
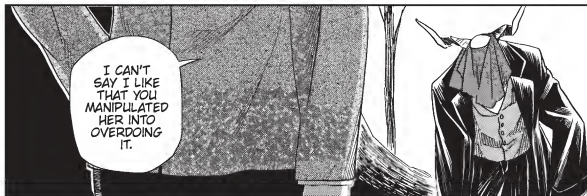
I EXPECT
SHE'LL
WAKE
SOON.



HER BODY
HAS SIMPLY
SHUT DOWN
ITS EVERYDAY
FUNCTIONS TO
CONCENTRATE
ON REPLEN-
ISHING THE
MAGIC SHE
EXPENDED.

IT'S
TO BE
EXPEC-
TED.







THE
WATER-
WHEEL
BREAKS.



THIS
WAS
FOR HER
OWN
GOOD.



THE
ONLY WAY
TO LEARN
THOSE
LIMITS
IS BY
DOING.

JUST
SO.



OH?
YOU
CAN
TELL?

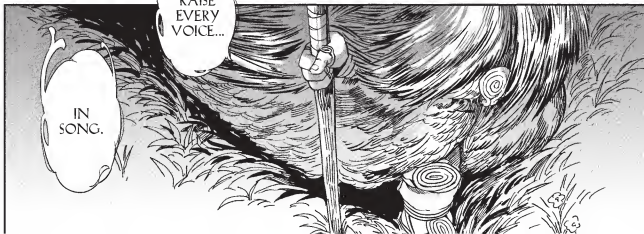
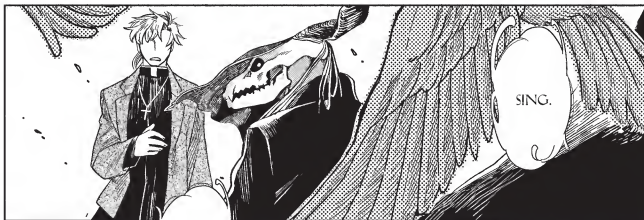
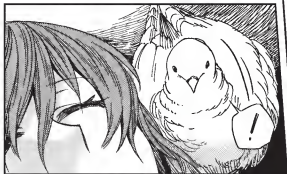
YOU'RE
STILL
HIDING
SOME-
THING.

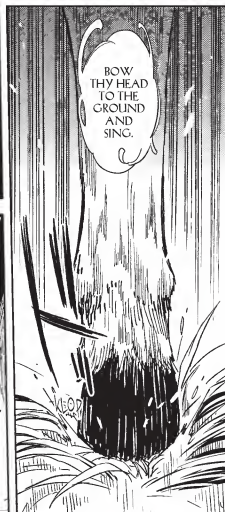


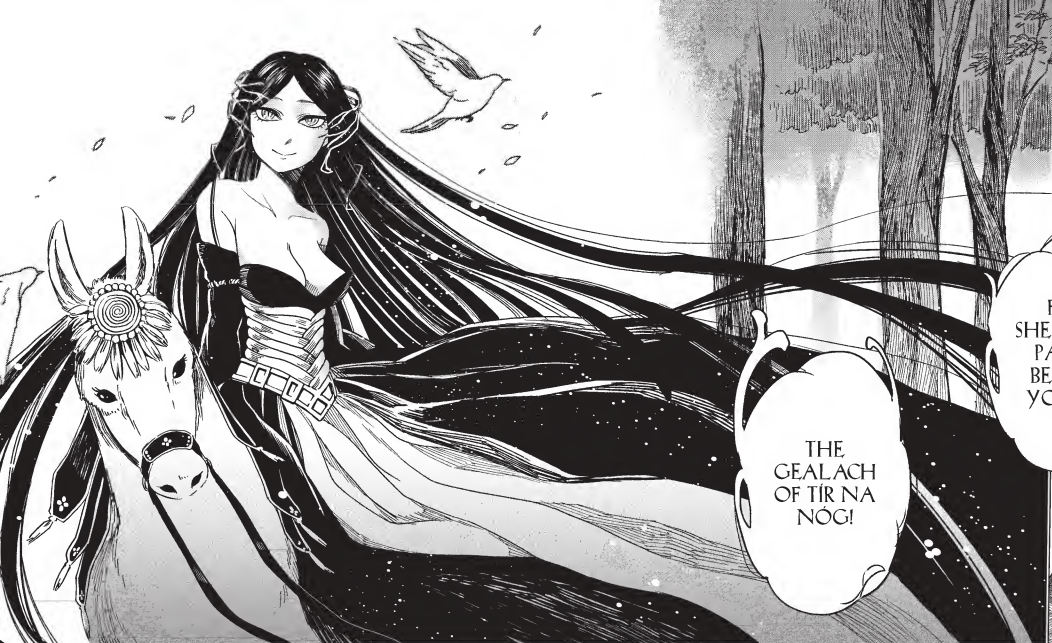
AH. SINK-
OR-SWIM
TRAINING,
HMM?



ALTHOUGH
SHE PUSHED
MUCH
FURTHER
THAN I
EXPECTED.

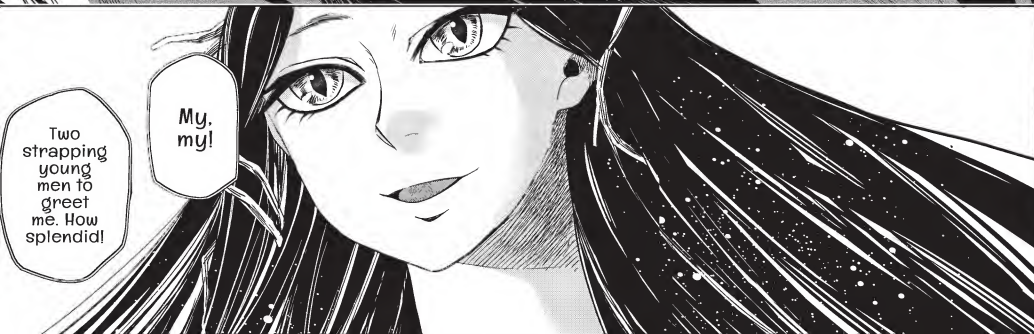






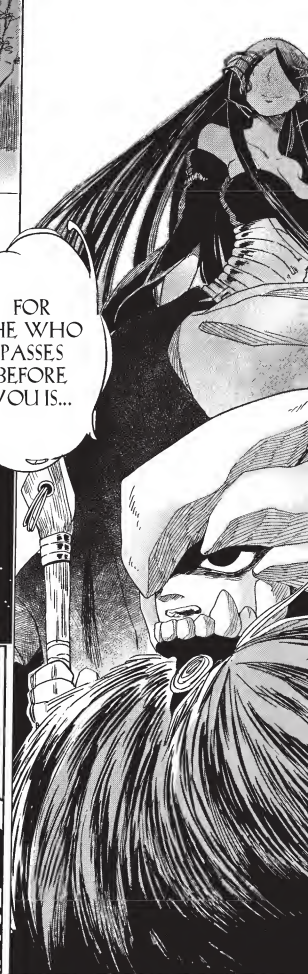
FOR SHE WHO
PASSES
BEFORE
YOU IS...

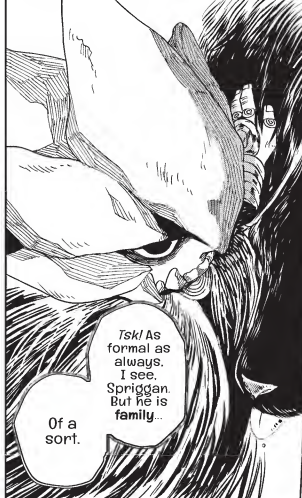
THE
GEALACH
OF TIR NA
NOG!



My,
my!

Two
strapping
young
men to
greet
me. How
splendid!





Tsk! As formal as always. I see, Spriggan. But he is family...

Of a sort.

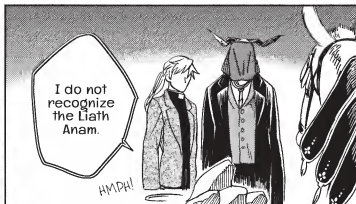


'tis beneath you to speak directly to such commoners.

Your Majesty!

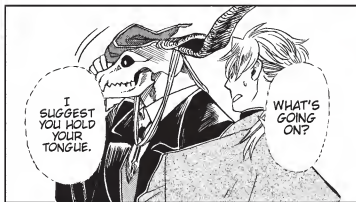


THIS IS THE GREAT LADY OF THE FAE...
SOVEREIGN OF BRITAIN'S NIGHT...



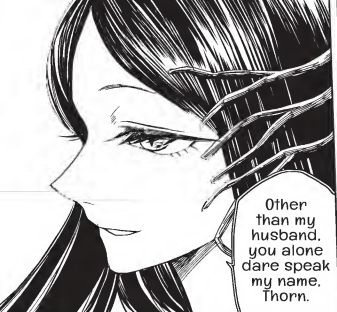
I do not recognize the Liath Anam.

HMPH!



I SUGGEST YOU HOLD YOUR TONGUE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?



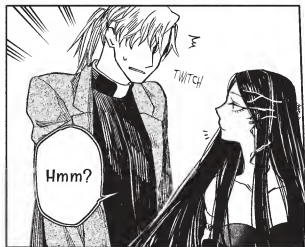
Other
than my
husband,
you alone
dare speak
my name.
Thorn.



I wished
to see
you and
your
fledgling
in peace.

Left
behind.
He irri-
tated
me.

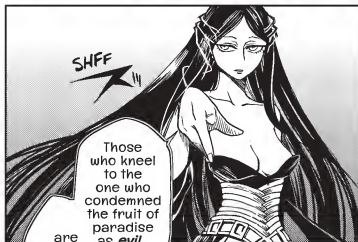
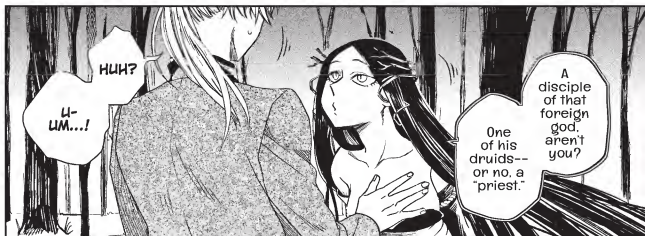
AND
WHERE
IS HIS
MAJESTY?

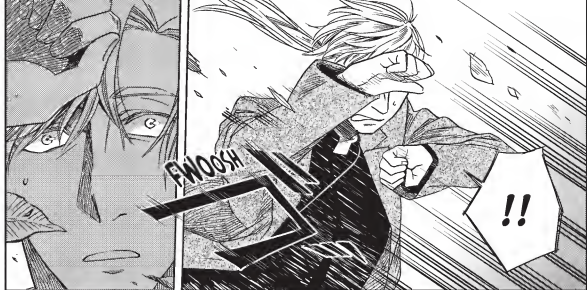


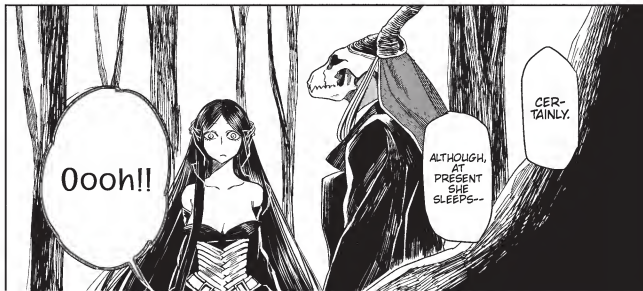
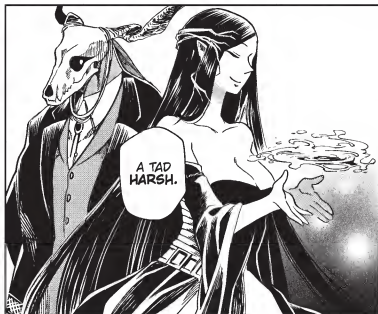
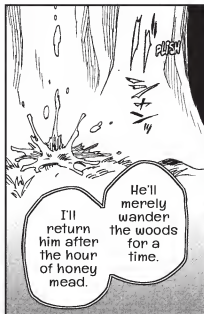
Hmm?



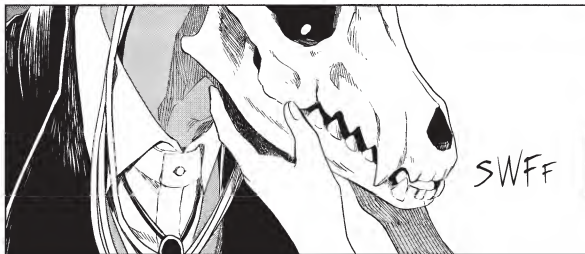
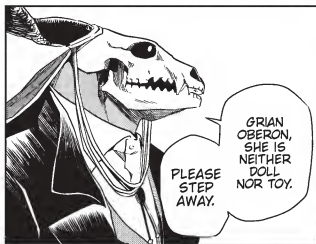
TITANIA,
QUEEN
OF ALL
FAERIE.













Seeing
change
in a
halfling
like your-
self is
magnificent.

Liath
Anam,
who
wears a
shell of
flesh...



You now
take your
first steps off
the long and
winding road
by keeping
a human at
your side.

Where
you once
merely
watched from
the shadows...



How long
will it
hold...?

Ahhh, but
this flimsy
skin you
wear for
one
human's
sake...

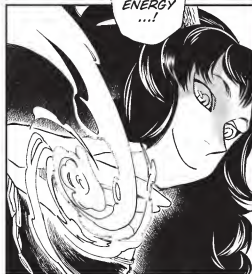


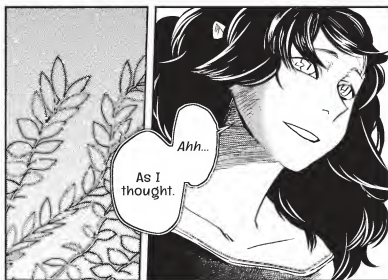
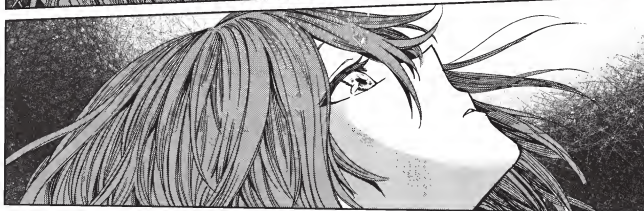
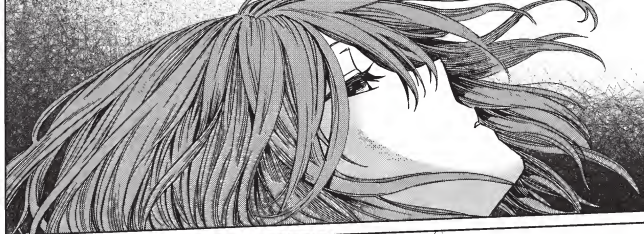
Watching
you play
the part
of **parent**
or **mate**
amuses
me.

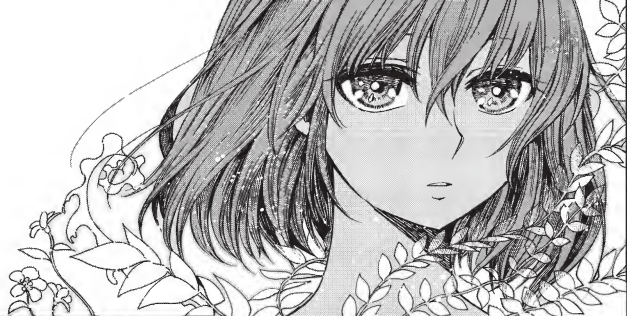




MAGICAL
ENERGY
...!



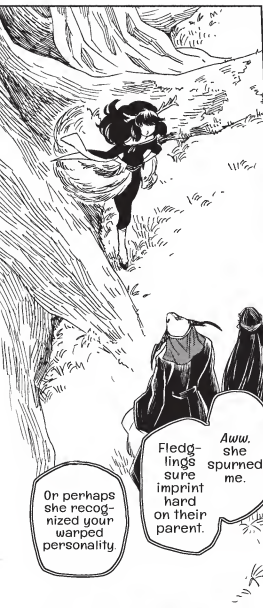




It's when
those
lovely
eyes
first
open...

...that
our little
robin
is most
exquisite.





Or perhaps
she recognized your
warped
personality.

Fledg-
lings
sure
imprint
hard
on their
parent.

Aww,
she
spurned
me.



ER...
NO.

GOOD.



HOW DO
YOU FEEL?
ARE YOU
TIRED?
DO YOU
ACHE ANY-
WHERE?

YOU
SLEPT
FOR A
WHILE.
HERE WAS
THE BEST
PLACE
FOR YOU.

UM...
WHERE
ARE WE?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



I do
apologize
for
startling
you,
sweetling.

SWFF



SPRONG

I am
queen of
the fae who
reside within
Albion, and
thus all of
Tír na nÓg.

And
I'm her
hubby,
Oberon!
Good to
meet'cha!



It's a
pleasure to
meet
you. I am
Titania.

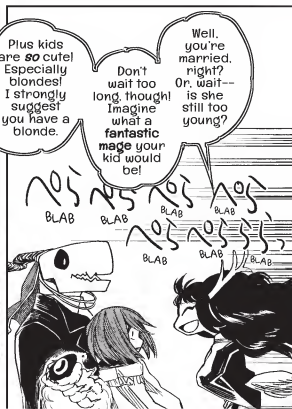
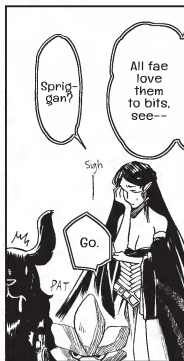
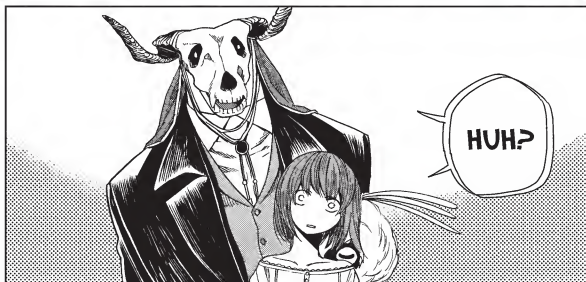


AND **TÍR
NA NÓG** IS
THE FAERIE
KINGDOM.

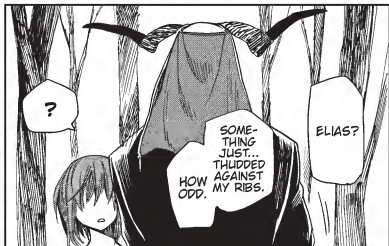
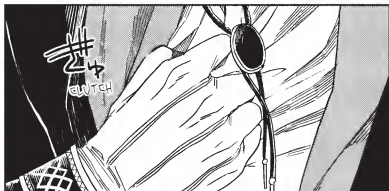
ALBION
IS THE
ANCIENT
NAME
FOR THE
BRITISH
ISLES.

"**ALBION**"?
"**TÍR**"
WHAT...?









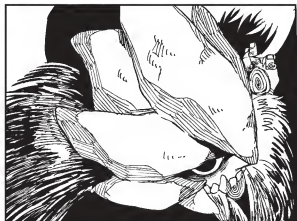


Perhaps I
would...or
perhaps
not.

Oho!



A good
day to
you both.



You, your
fledgling,
and all the
denizens
of Albion's
night...

are my
precious
children,
after all.



You
liath anam
do naught
but bring
disaster.



A
flesh-clad
halfing
like you
has no
place there.

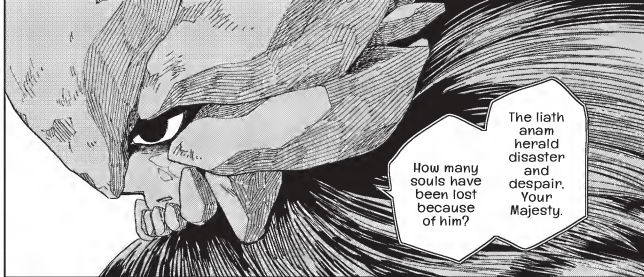
Despite
Her Majesty's
graciousness,
do not *dream*
of setting
foot into
our lands.



I'M WELL
AWARE.
WE'VE NO
INTENTION OF
VENTURING
THERE
WILLINGLY.



Oh,
Spriggan!
You're so
brusque
to all
non-fae.



How many
souls have
been lost
because
of him?

The liath
anam
herald
disaster
and
despair.
Your
Majesty.



Unfortun-
ately, it's we
who live in
humanity's
shadow who
get the short
end of the
stick.

Now, now.
That was
due to
human
sin.



Far wiser
to bet on
the number
of children.

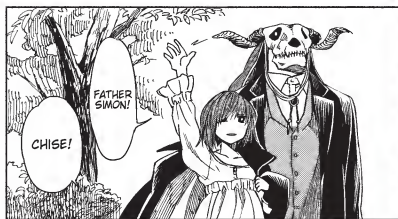
Good-
ness,
no.

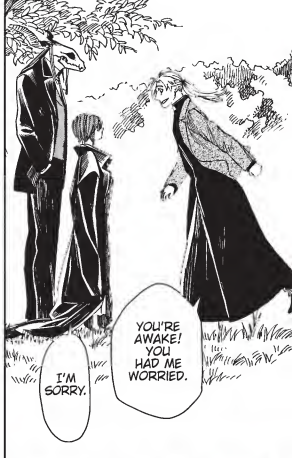


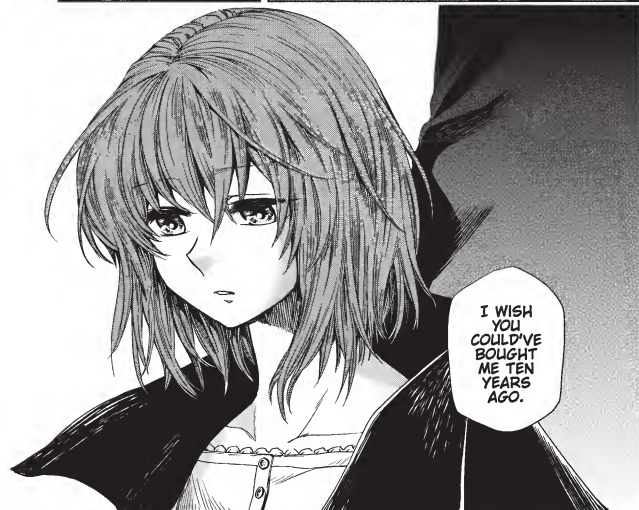
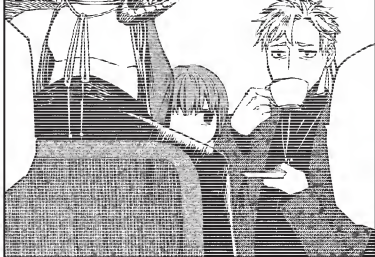
Care to
wager
on if
those
two will
get to-
gether?

Hey,
Titanial

Any-
way...









DO YOU,
NOW?
EVEN
THOUGH...

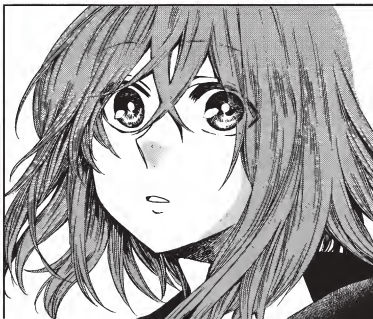
FROM
THIS POINT,
WE'LL HAVE SO
MANY YEARS
TOGETHER
THAT A DECADE
WILL BE THE
BLINK OF
AN EYE?

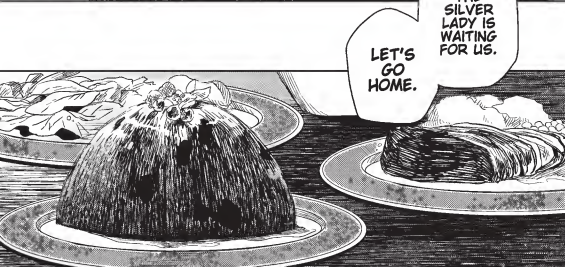
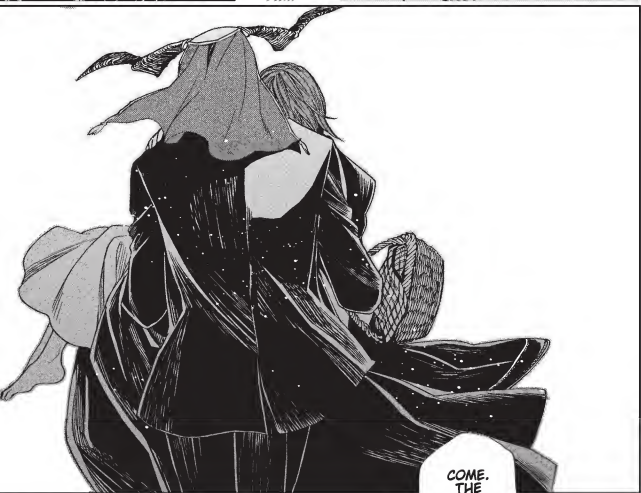
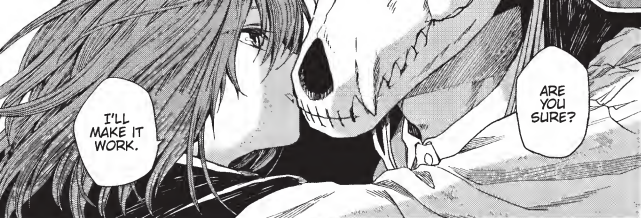


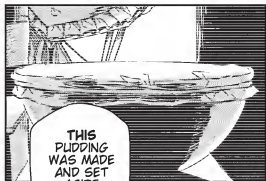
THAT
YOUR EX-
PERIMENT
WORKS.

I
HOPE
...

IT
WILL.







THIS
PUDDING
WAS MADE
AND SET
ASIDE
FOR YOUR
RETURN.



WHAT'S
THIS...?

A
CHRISTMAS
PUDDING,
THOUGH
ONE VERY
OUT OF
SEASON.

THEY'RE
TYPICALLY
MADE IN THE
FALL AND
AGED UNTIL
CHRISTMAS.



NOM

IT'S
DELICIOUS.



CAN'T
YOU EVEN
MANAGE
A MINOR
ERRAND?

I SENT
YOU TO
FETCH
THAT
BLIGHT
FOR ME.

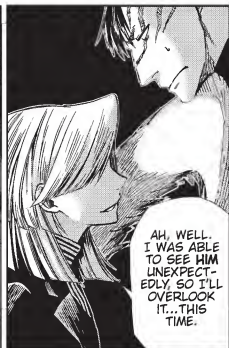
Chapter 9: When one door closes, another opens.



YOU'D
BETTER
MAKE SURE
YOU GET
THE NEXT
ONE.



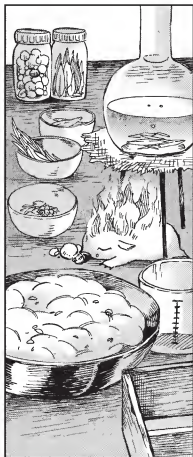
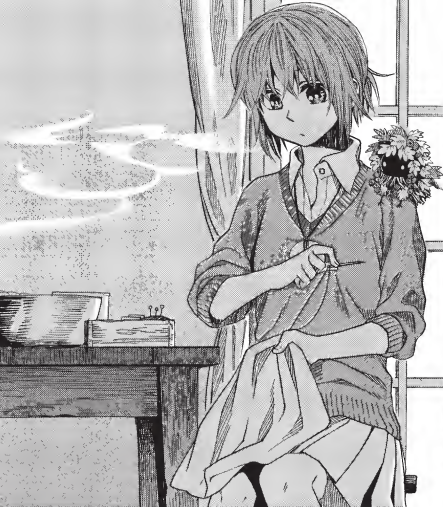
IF YOU
DON'T
WANT YOUR
PRECIOUS
APPRENTICE
EXPERI-
MENTED ON
INSTEAD...



AH, WELL.
I WAS ABLE
TO SEE HIM
UNEXPECT-
EDLY, SO I'LL
OVERLOOK
IT...THIS
TIME.

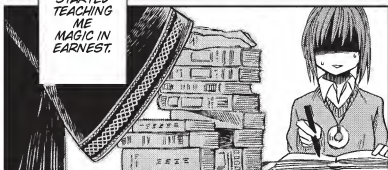
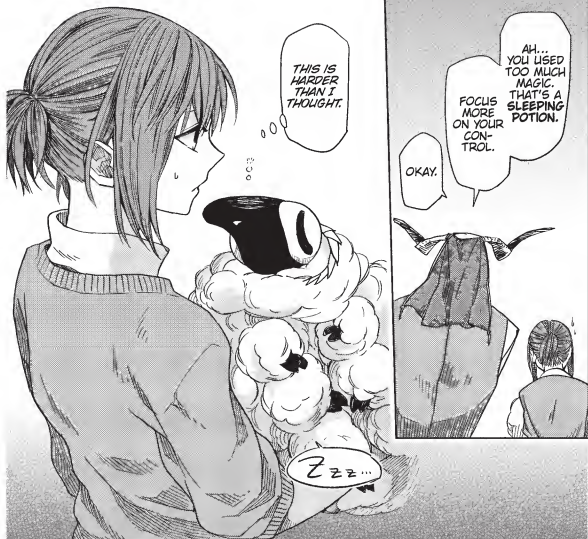


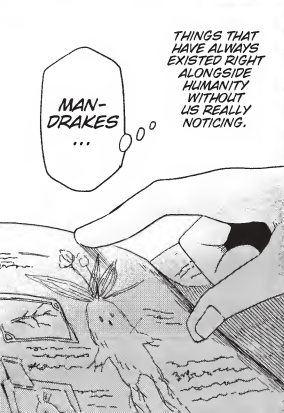
Chapter 9:
When one door closes,
another opens.

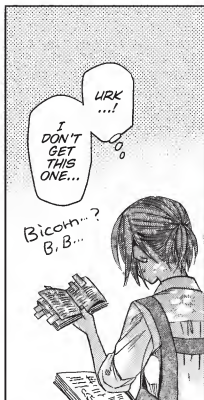










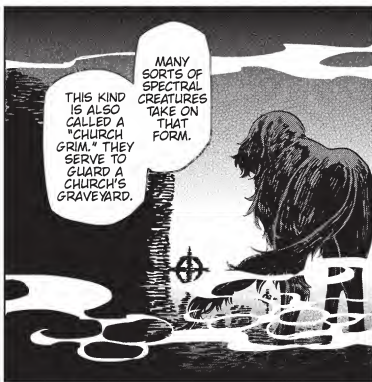






A LOCAL
CHURCH
IS BEING
HAUNTED
BY A
BLACK DOG.

THE THIRD
MESS HE
DUMPED
IN MY LAP,
YES.



THIS KIND
IS ALSO
CALLED A
"CHURCH
GRIM." THEY
SERVE TO
GUARD A
CHURCH'S
GRAVEYARD.

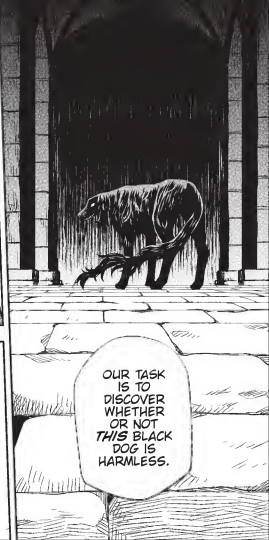
MANY
SORTS OF
SPECTRAL
CREATURES
TAKE ON
THAT
FORM.



A
BLACK
DOG...?



IT'S SAID
THAT SOME
PEOPLE,
WHEN DEATH
APPROACHES,
CAN SEE
CHURCH
GRIMS.





ACTU-
ALLY...

THAT GUY
CALLED
ELIAS BY
A NAME
I'D NEVER
HEARD
BEFORE.



WHAT
DID
YOU
DO?

DEALING WITH
THEM IS MORE
HASSLE THAN
IT'S WORTH, SO
I OCCASIONALLY
HANDLE THINGS
THEY DON'T WANT
TO. IN EXCHANGE,
THEY LOOK THE
OTHER WAY.



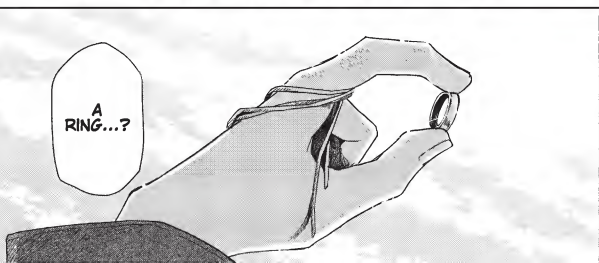
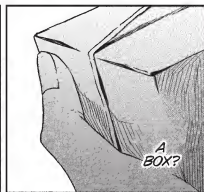
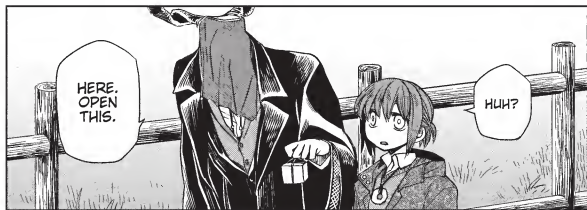
HOW
MUCH DO
I REALLY
KNOW...

ABOUT
ELIAS...?



CHISE.

AH,
YES. I'D
ALMOST
FORGOT-
TEN.





ALCHEMISTS
TURN
THEIR OWN
PHYSICAL
ENERGY
INTO
MAGIC TO
PERFORM
ALCHEMY.

MAGES
ABSORB
AMBIENT
MAGIC FROM
THEIR SUR-
ROUNDINGS
TO CAST
SPELLS.

BUT
THEY HAVE
VIRTUALLY
NO CONTROL
OVER EITHER
PROCESS.

SLEIGH
BEGGY CAN
DO BOTH,
OUTDOING
MAGES AND
ALCHE-
MISTS...



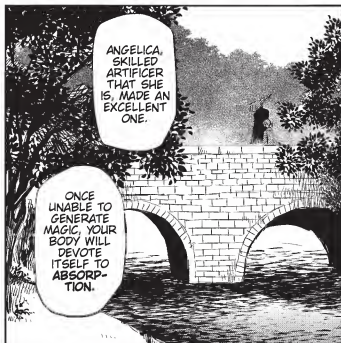
I TRUST
YOU RE-
CALL WHY
SLEIGH
BEGGY
TEND TO
BE SHORT-
LIVED?



JUST
SO.

BUT
HUMAN
BODIES
AREN'T
MADE TO
ENDURE
THAT MUCH
STRAIN
FOR LONG.

YEAH.
WE'RE
CONSTANTLY
ABSORBING
AND GEN-
ERATING
LOTS OF
MAGIC...

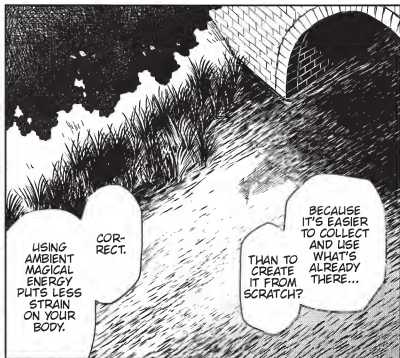
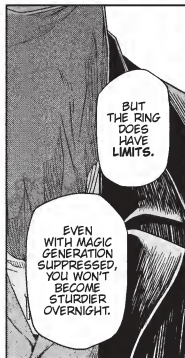


ANGELICA,
SKILLED
ARTIFICER
THAT SHE
IS, MADE AN
EXCELLENT
ONE.

ONCE
UNABLE TO
GENERATE
MAGIC, YOUR
BODY WILL
DEVOTE
ITSELF TO
ABSORP-
TION.



I ASKED
FOR A
RING TO
SUPPRESS
YOUR
ABILITY TO
GENERATE
MAGIC.





THANK YOU.



I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WELL-BEING, AND I SHALL KEEP STUDYING WAYS TO IMPROVE ON THIS.

DON'T WORRY.



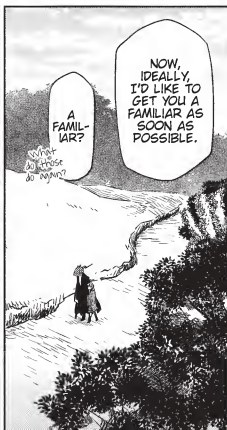
FAMILIARS SUBSIST ON THEIR MASTERS' MAGIC, PERFORMING ALL MANNER OF TASKS IN EXCHANGE.

THEY ARE CONVENIENT, LITTERLY LOYAL SERVANTS.



SOME PEOPLE CHOOSE ANIMALS. OTHERS, LIKE ANGELICA, TAKE A NEIGHBOR.

Servant? ...



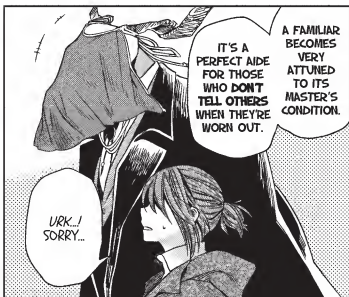
A FAMILIAR?

What do those do again?

NOW, IDEALLY, I'D LIKE TO GET YOU A FAMILIAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



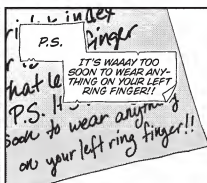
FAMILIARS,
HUH? SO
WE'RE
BACK
TO REAL
MAGIC
NOW.



IT'S A
PERFECT AIDE
FOR THOSE
WHO DON'T
TELL OTHERS
WHEN THEY'RE
WORN OUT.

A FAMILIAR
BECOMES
VERY
ATTUNED
TO ITS
MASTER'S
CONDITION.

URK...!
SORRY...



P.S.

IT'S WAAAY TOO
SOON TO WEAR ANY-
THING ON YOUR LEFT
RING FINGER!!

P.S. H-
soon to wear anything
on your left ring finger!!



The right index
finger is the finger
that leads.

P.S. It's waaay too
soon to wear anything
on your left ring finger!!

THE RIGHT INDEX
FINGER IS THE
FINGER THAT LEADS.

AH,
HERE
WE ARE.

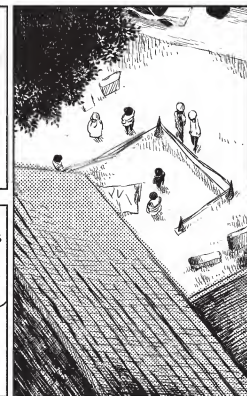


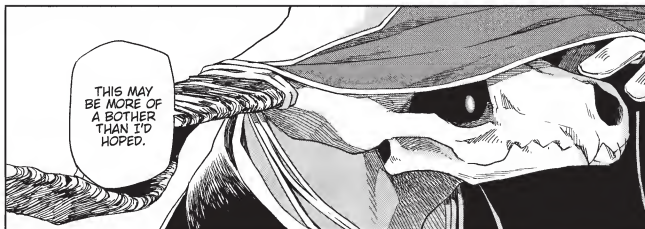
SINCE
THAT
NIGHT...

ELIAS
HASN'T
SAID MUCH
AT ALL
ABOUT
THAT.



"BUT ALSO
TO MAKE YOU
MY BRIDE."



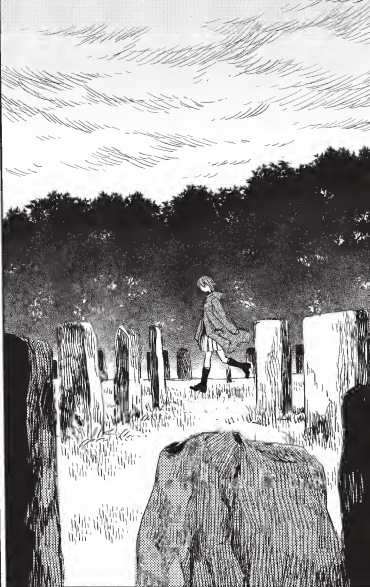






YUCK!

IT'S
BEEN AGES
SINCE
I SAW
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.



THERE
ARE BAD
THINGS
STIRRING
HERE...



THIS
PLACE...



FWISH



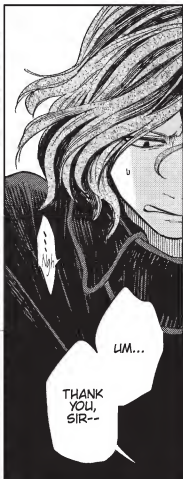




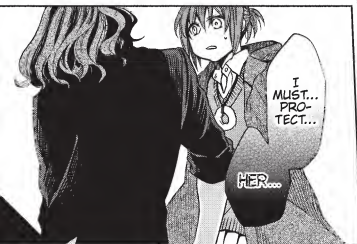


ISABEL
...?









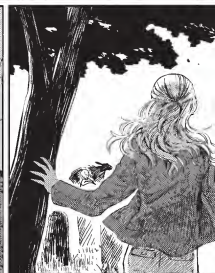
THAT'S
RIGHT.

ISABEL.



SHE...
SLEEPS
HERE.

I...



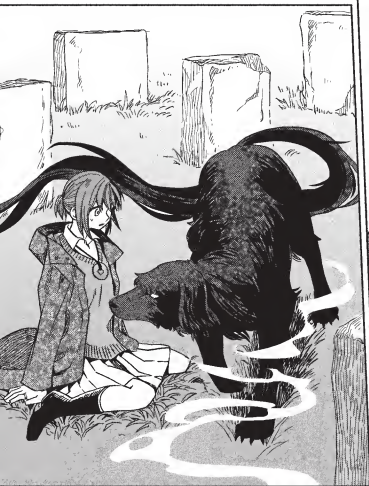


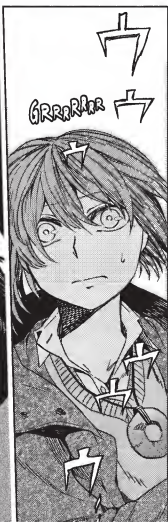
Chapter 10: Speak of the devil,
and he is sure to appear.

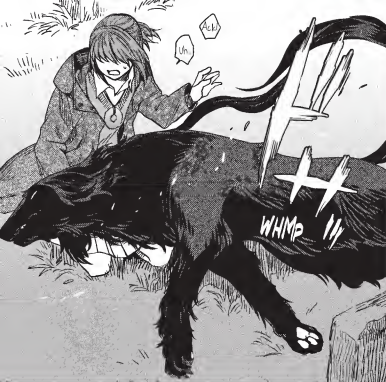




Chapter 10:
Speak of the devil,
and he is sure to appear.



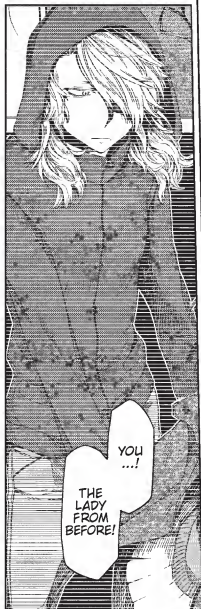




EXACTLY
THE SAME
INJURIES
AS ON THE
DEAD BODY.

BITE
MARKS...
LONG
GASHES...





THE
LADY
FROM
BEFORE!

YOU
...!



THE
DOG.

FORK
IT
OVER.



HAND
OVER THE
DOG AND
I'LL LET
YOU GO.

LOOK,
THIS ISN'T
PERSONAL
AT ALL.





HEY!!
WHAT
THE
HELL
DID YOU
DO...
THAT...
FOR...



WOW.

I
MESSED
THE
POTION
UP...
BUT IT'S
NOT BAD
FOR SELF
DEFENSE,
I GUESS.



COME.

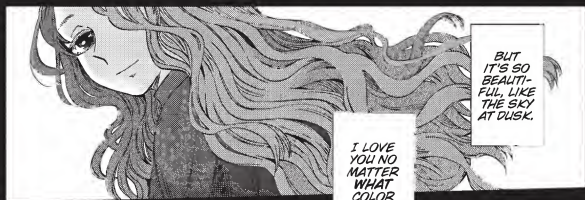
ULYS-
SE.

ULYS-
SE!



WHAT'S
WRONG,
ISABEL?

WERE
YOU
TEASED
FOR YOUR
RED HAIR
AGAIN?



BUT
IT'S SO
BEAUTI-
FUL, LIKE
THE SKY
AT DUSK.

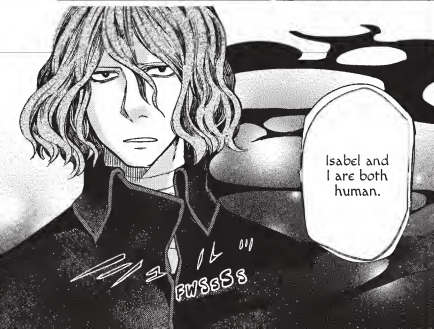
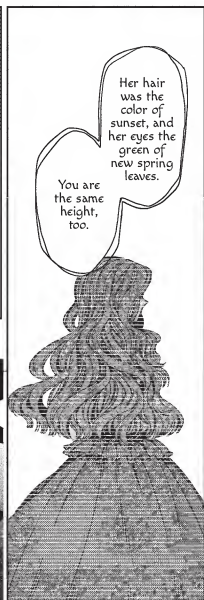
I LOVE
YOU NO
MATTER
WHAT
COLOR
IT IS.



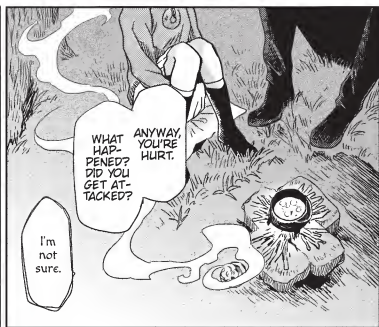
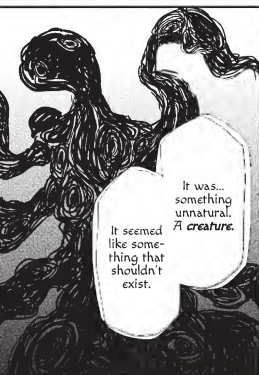
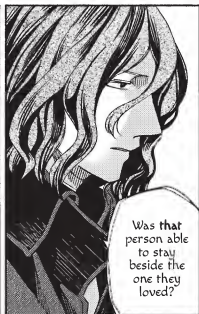
ISABEL...

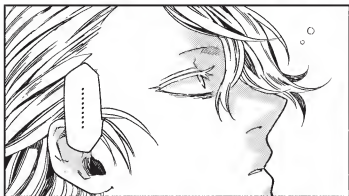
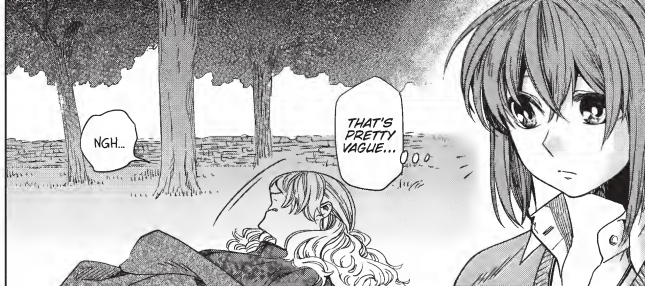


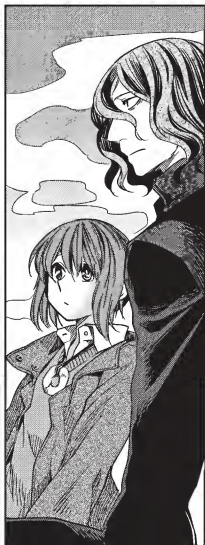
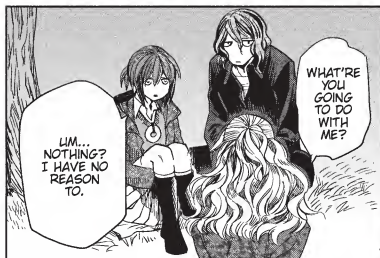
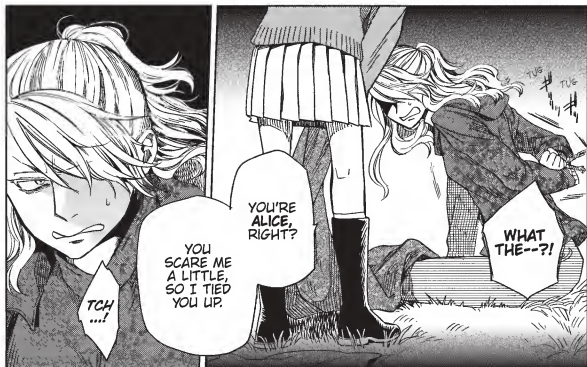














DEPENDING
ON YOUR
REASONS,
I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
UNTIE YOU.



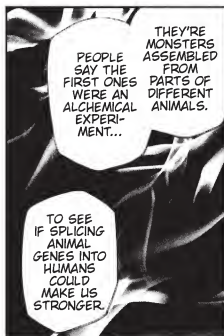
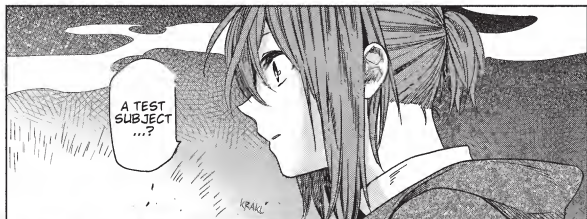
WHY
DO YOU
NEED
THE
BLACK
DOG?

BUT I
GUESS
I COULD
ASK
SOME
QUES-
TIONS.



AS A
TEST
SUB-
JECT.

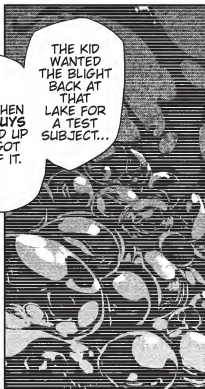
WE
NEED
HIM...





WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SCREW THIS ONE UP.

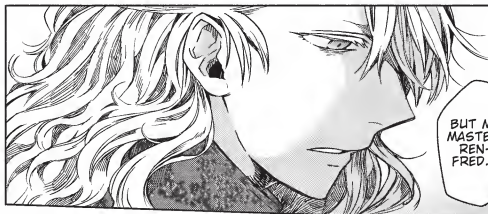
BUT THEN YOU GUYS TURNED UP AND GOT RID OF IT.



THE KID WANTED THE BLIGHT BACK AT THAT LAKE FOR A TEST SUBJECT...



NEXT THING WE KNEW, HE WAS ORDERING MY MASTER TO COLLECT SPECIMENS. RENFRED REFUSED, OF COURSE... OR HE TRIED TO, ANYWAY. BUT WE'RE STUCK.



I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT HAPPENS TO ME... BUT MY MASTER, REN-FRED...



OF COURSE!!

YOU MUST REALLY CARE ABOUT HIM.





HUH?

YOU'RE
THE
SAME,
RIGHT?



WE'VE
BOTH
BEEN
LIFTED
OUT OF
HELL.

THAT
SKULL-
HEAD
BOUGHT
YOU AND
TOOK
YOU IN.



MY
WHOLE
LIFE,
NOTHING
GOOD EVER
HAPPENED
TO ME.

BUT
I'VE GOT
ENOUGH
SCRAPS OF
TALENT
THAT HE
FOUND ME
AND TOOK
ME IN.



BUT
I'D DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIM.

I'M
NOT ALL
THAT
SMART...



AM I
THE
SAME...?



WHAT DO
I REALLY
THINK...

ABOUT
HIM?



AH.



OH,
UH...

I EX-
PLAINED,
SO
CUT ME
LOOSE!!

ANYWAY,
THAT'S
ENOUGH!



I GUESS
HE'S...
IMPOR-
TANT TO
ME? I'D
NEVER
SURVIVE IF
HE KICKED
ME OUT.

I
KNOW HE
DOESN'T
HAVE THE
BEST
HISTORY,
BUT HE'S
KIND.



NOW I UNDER-
STAND
THE
SITUATION.

YIKES!



NO!
I CAME
OUT HERE
ALONE!
HE
DOESN'T--

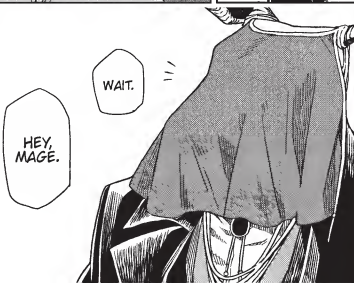


WHERE
IS REN-
FRED?
IS HE
NEARBY?



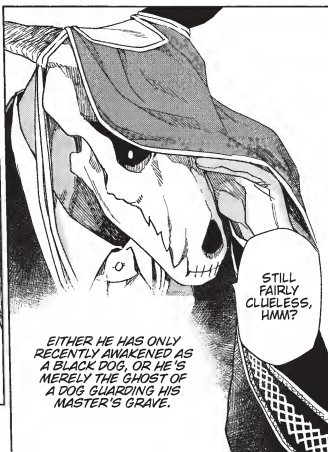
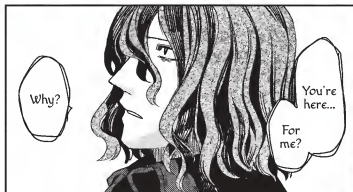
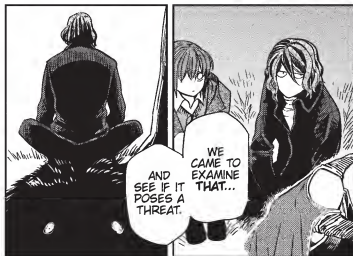
YOU
KNEW
HE WAS
THERE
--!

SORRY.



WAIT.

HEY,
MAGE.







AND HOW
WOULD
THAT
BENEFIT
US?



YOU KEEP
HANGING
AROUND
HERE AND
YOUR LITTLE
PET THERE
COULD
BE NEXT.

YESTERDAY,
HE USED
IT TO KILL
A WOMAN
VISITING
A GRAVE.

THE KID'S
GOT A
CHIMERA!
HE'S BEEN
AROUND
HERE.



HMM.

NOT A
GREAT
REASON.
BUT...



HUH?

IF HE'S LEFT
RUNNING
AROUND,
THE CHURCH
WILL COME
WHINING TO
ME LATER,
ANYWAY.

I SUP-
POSE
WE'LL
HELP.



YEAH.
AND THE
CHIMERA
ATTACKED
THIS DOG,
TOO.

THE
BODY
OUT
FRONT
WAS
HIS
DOING?



I DON'T
KNOW
MUCH.

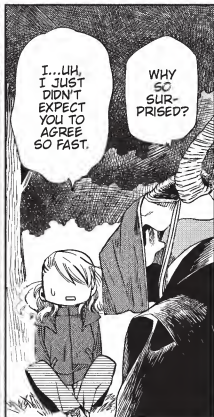


HM?

HE
LOOKS
LIKE A
KID...



TELL ME
ABOUT
THIS
INDI-
VIDUAL.

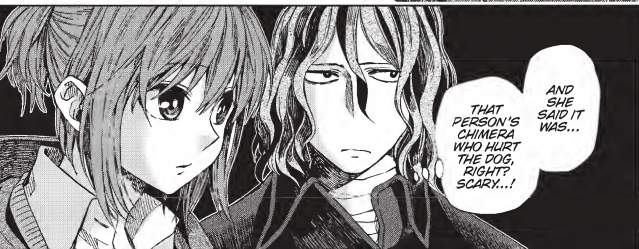


I...UH,
I JUST
DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
AGREE
SO FAST.

WHY
SO
SUR-
PRISED?

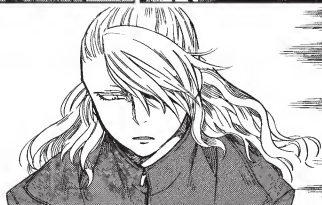
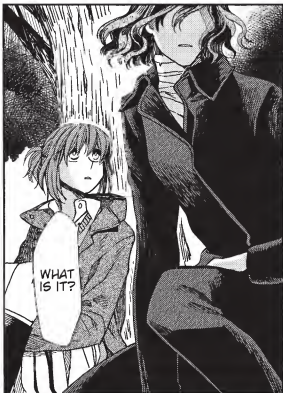


BUT IT'S
LIKE...LIKE
HE'S GOT
OTHER
STUFF
LAYERED
OVER HIM.
HE'S
BLURRY.



THAT
PERSON'S
CHIMERA
WHO HURT
THE DOG,
RIGHT?
SCARY...!

AND
SHE
SAID IT
WAS...



AND HE
ALWAYS
LOOKS SO
SMUG--



WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR
--?!

HEY!



SHOVE





RENFRED
SHOULD
TRAIN HIS
PUPPY
BETTER.

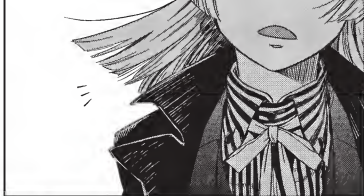
IT
DOESN'T
KNOW TO
KEEP ITS
MOUTH
SHUT.





I MEAN...

NO GREAT LOSS, SHE WAS JUST A GUINEA PIG.



BASTARD...!!

OH WELL...



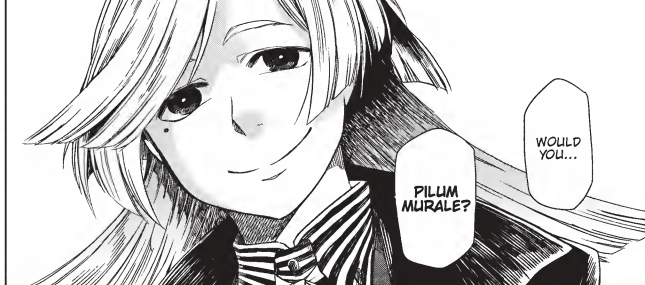
I GOT THE WRONG ONE?

WHOOAS...

oof

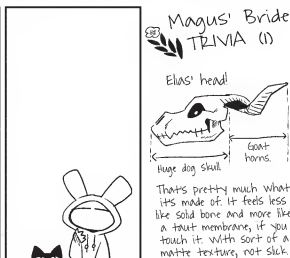


YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD NEVER GET ATTACHED TO A HUMAN...



To be continued...

Something That Could Be Called an AFTERWORD



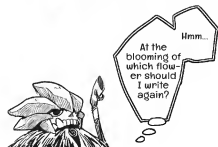
Child, Fight Your Fate.



A fairy tale tinged with otherworldly romance...
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A *Sleigh Beggy* holds great power...but that power comes at a high cost, and a *Sleigh Beggy*'s ultimate fate is cruel. The strange young man who caused the blight in Ulthar cuts Chise down mercilessly. Holding her bleeding body, Elias unleashes the power that earned him the name "Pilum Murale"--the Spear Wall!

Silky's Diary



Chise's Room

A corner room on the second floor. Chise's never had her own room before!



Shelves that hold everyday items and books she's reading.

Window 2 where the neighbors' come and go.

Small chimney for the small stove.

Shelf to hold previous things.

A work desk with a tilting panel, like a painter's table.
Mini-stove and heat-resistant bricks.

Window 1

Cluttered, but not necessarily "messy."

Second floor hallway

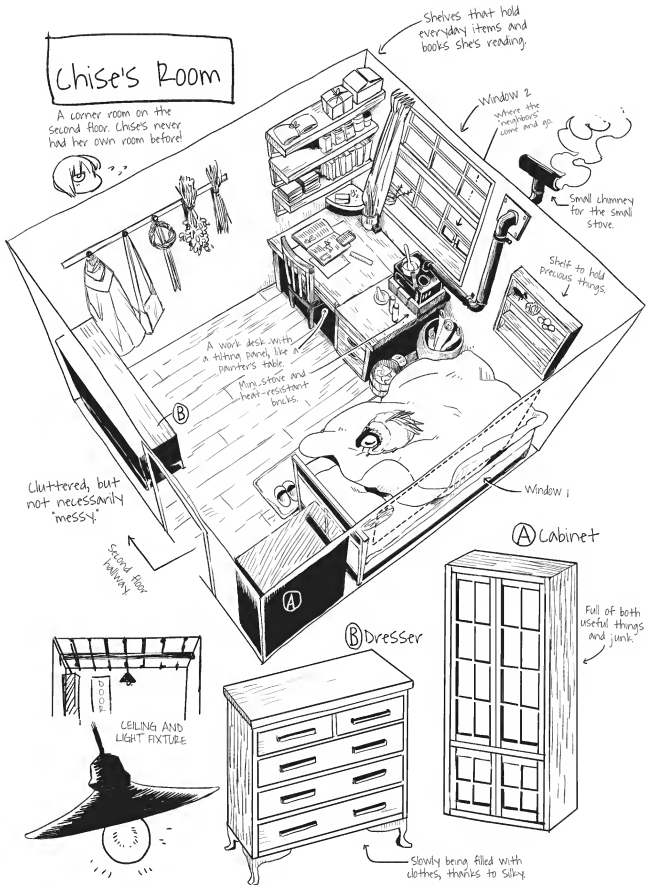
① Cabinet

Full of both useful things and junk.

② Dresser

Slowly being filled with clothes, thanks to Silky.

CEILING AND LIGHT FIXTURE



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The Ancient Magus' Bride

VOLUME 2

story and art by KORE YAMAZAKI

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Ysabet Reinhardt MacFarlane

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THE ANCIENT MAGUS' BRIDE VOL. 2

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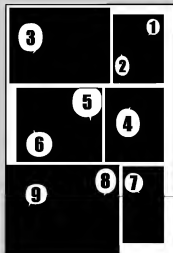
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Great power comes at a price...

Chise Hatori's life has recently undergone shocking change. As a *sleigh-beggy*—a person capable of generating and wielding tremendous magical power—she has transformed from an unwanted child to a magician's apprentice who has been introduced to fae royalty. But Chise's newly discovered abilities also mean a cruel fate awaits her.



Rated: TEEN

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